



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Leader of the House

Reference: 03556-2012

31 JUL 2012

Mr Peter Fitzgerald
Chair
Sydney Airport Community Forum
c/- Aviation Environment Policy
Department of Infrastructure and Transport
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Fitzgerald

Thank you for your letter conveying the outcomes of the meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum held on 4 May 2012.

I appreciate the Forum's interest in the Joint Study on Aviation Capacity in the Sydney Region. The study shows that existing aviation infrastructure in Sydney will not cope with aviation demand. The study, commissioned jointly by the Australian and NSW governments, makes it clear that Sydney needs a second airport - sooner rather than later.

That is why the Government is taking steps to tackle aviation capacity constraints on the economy, including:

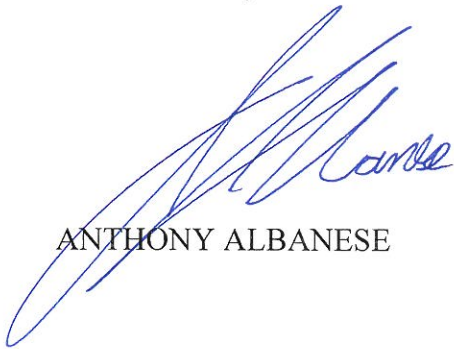
- a detailed investigation into the suitability of a second airport for the Sydney region at Wilton including conducting preliminary economic, social and environmental studies
- ensuring Sydney Airport Corporation Limited develops a strategy to invest in terminal, apron, taxiway and other improvements to operate Sydney Airport to maximum efficiency
- working with the NSW Government to develop a long-term plan to meet projected demand on the road and rail networks servicing Sydney Airport
- assessing the scope and consequences of utilising RAAF Base Richmond for limited civil operations including consideration of social, economic and environmental impacts.

These next steps build on the commitments we have already made to retain the movement cap, curfew and noise-sharing arrangements at Sydney Airport.

I am pleased the Forum endorsed the introduction of the Ground Based Augmentation System in Sydney. I understand this technology will help to maintain the highest standards of safety for aircraft landing at the airport during conditions of limited visibility.

I also applaud the collaborative efforts of the Forum, Airservices Australia and the airlines in developing a practical solution to address problems with aircraft not tracking accurately through the heads of Botany Bay.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style.

ANTHONY ALBANESE