

February 10th 2016

Mr John Alexander OAM MP
Chair
Sydney Airport Community Forum
c/ Aviation Environment
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
GPO Box 594
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Alexander, re: request to conduct a research study.

Thank you for your letter of 24th September to the HEARing Cooperative Research Centre (HEARing CRC) concerning the issue of updating the 1982 study '*Aircraft noise in Australia: A survey of community reaction*' as regards noise impacts from Sydney Airport.

First, I must apologise for the delay in response, but unfortunately, your original letter was misdirected to another group due to some confusion in the addressing, which has now obviously been resolved.

In your letter, you have asked if the HEARing CRC would be able to undertake a study to confirm that the current noise metrics (i.e Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF)) are based on appropriate science.

I'm delighted to advise that the HEARing CRC would welcome the opportunity to work with the Sydney Airport Community Forum on this project. The HEARing CRC is dedicated to the improved prevention and remediation of hearing loss, and this work would fit well within our scope of studies being conducted under our HEARsmart program.

We would manage the study from our offices at the Australian Hearing Hub at Macquarie University, which also provides us with access to the additional expertise of our staff members involved in our noise prevention research at the National Acoustic Laboratories.

It is our intention to engage Emeritus Professor Andrew Hede and Dr Rob Bullen to conduct and guide the study, given their authorship of the original report and their vast knowledge in the field. We have had discussions with Andrew and Robert, who are comfortable with this suggested management.

As to scope, I am aware of the document provided to the SACF by Andrew and Robert, which commented on the need for a new survey around Sydney Airport, and would agree with and endorse the comments and proposals made in that paper as regards what could/should be completed and detailed demographics as a basis for our proposed study.

As to costs, the primary cost would be in covering the consultancy fees for Rob and Andrew, and would of course depend entirely on the final scoping of the project as determined by the SACF.

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We would estimate something on the order of costs of \$1,000/day for consultancy fees, with the total costs to actually be determined by the decision on whether to repeat the type of survey originally conducted, which in today's terms could cost up to \$1m, or whether a more limited and focused field study could provide the necessary information, something which could be done for half of the costs.

I would suggest that should the SACF wish to proceed, that the best way forward would be to arrange a scoping meeting with our respective teams, which could then determine the absolute scope of the project, and allow us to then tender a more detailed cost proposal to you for consideration. Should that be favourable, we could then commence the study.

Again, please accept my apologies for the delay in replying. I have included some information on the HEARing CRC and its various affiliated groups, including HEARsmart.

We look forwards to working with the Sydney Airport Community Forum on this important study. Please feel free to contact me by email, or by phone (0418 780 198) if additional information is required or for clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Cowan' in a cursive, flowing script.

Professor Robert Cowan, PhD FAudA(CCP), GAICD
Chief Executive Officer

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