



**The Hon Darren Chester MP**  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
*Deputy Leader of The House*  
*Member for Gippsland*

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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

Thank you for your letter of 16 March 2016 regarding the February meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum.

I commend your efforts to improve the level of community engagement by the Forum and I agree to appoint Mr Bob Hayes as the Community Representative for the Northern Region.

I understand that the Forum discussed options for replicating an aircraft noise study conducted by the National Acoustic Laboratory in 1982 (the NAL Study) which developed the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast.

I am aware that considerable international research is being undertaken into the impacts of aircraft noise and that the International Civil Aviation Organization is establishing new standards to guide social and socio-acoustic surveys. At this stage I believe it is prudent to defer any review of the NAL Study until the findings of the international studies on aircraft noise are known, and the impact for Australia of their results considered.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on these matters.

Yours sincerely

**DARREN CHESTER**