



Sydney Airport Community Forum

Mr John Alexander OAM MP
Chair

Ms Maria Patrinos
Community Representative

Mr Bob Hayes
Community Representative

Mr Kevin Hill
Community Representative

Mr John Clarke
Community Representative

Ms Linda Burney MP
Member for Barton

Mr Paul Fletcher MP
Federal Member for Bradfield

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Federal Member for Cook

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Federal Member for Grayndler

Mr Matt Thistlethwaite MP
Federal Member for Kingsford-Smith

Mr Trent Zimmerman MP
Federal Member for North Sydney

Mr Craig Laundry MP
Federal Member for Reid

The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Federal Member for Sydney

The Hon Tony Burke MP
Federal Member for Watson

The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP
Federal Member for Wentworth

Mr Ron Hoenig MP
State Member for Hefron

Ms Jo Haylen MP
State Member for Summer Hill

Cr Carmelo Pesce
Mayor of Sutherland Shire

Ms Kerrie Mather
CEO, Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd

Captain Rob Edney
Australian Airline Industry

Mr Barry Abrams
Board of Airline Representatives of Australia

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing as Chair of the Sydney Airport Community Forum, in response to the consultation regarding the Airports Amendment Bill.

The Forum has discussed this Bill in depth at its last meeting and all members were supportive of most of the proposals within it. However, there are 2 issues which raised concerns with some members of our committee.

Firstly, a large number of members voiced concerns about the automatic approval for applications from airport-lessee companies for reduced consultation periods, should the Minister not respond within 15 business days. Although members understood the purpose of this change, there was concern that the default was one of acceptance rather than rejection. Many members felt that automatic acceptance set a dangerous precedence and could lead to accidental abuse. It is the view of many in the committee that the change be made so that the request is automatically *declined* should the Minister not reply within the desired timeframe.

Secondly, some members raised concerns about proposal to increase the current \$20 million monetary trigger for Major Development Plans to \$35million. It was explained that this was a figure that was regularly raised to keep it within a practical level, although a couple of members were concerned that \$15 million represented a very large rise.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation. I hope you will consider the issues raised here.

Yours sincerely

John Alexander OAM MP
Chair

3rd March 2017