



The Hon John Anderson MP
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Deputy Leader National Party of Australia

Dr Brendan Nelson MP
Chairman
Sydney Airport Community Forum
Member for Bradfield
Suite 8
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Dear Dr Nelson

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 1999 conveying a number of resolutions which arose out of the Forum's 17th meeting held on 26 February 1999.

The Forum has passed resolutions on six issues.

Precision Runway Monitor (PRM)

I fully share the Forum's concerns about the Precision Runway Monitor. I have advised Airservices that should it wish to proceed with the PRM in the 16 direction (landings from the north), then it should designate as a proponent under the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974. A copy of my letter is attached.

Implementation of LTOP

I understand the frustration that some members feel about the rate at which the Plan has been implemented. The Bureau of Air Safety Investigation (BASI) report into systemic safety issues at Sydney Airport released in August last year raised a number of serious concerns about the implementation of LTOP. This, quite rightly in my view, warranted a slowing down in the implementation of further LTOP changes until we could be assured safety concerns are fully addressed.

I trust that the presentation given by Airservices to the last Forum meeting enabled members to gain a better understanding of the work that is currently in progress on implementing the Plan. Two new runway modes, Modes 8 & 6A, are programmed to be implemented within the next 12 months, the threshold of runway 25 is being relocated and an ILS installed and the major program of taxiway works is well advanced. These are all initiatives which are designed to further progress the Plan and I look forward to these taking us forward.

It is important for members to recognise that LTOP has to be implemented alongside other initiatives. In particular, TAAATS is a major Australia wide program that must be implemented this year. It has already been delayed by LTOP. You will no doubt appreciate that there needs to be a stable period leading up to the Olympics so that Airservices can manage the increased levels of air traffic activity around Sydney during that period.

The Forum is provided with a detailed monthly report on progress toward the LTOP targets. If members wish to see additional information in the report they may wish to raise this with Airservices either directly or through the Implementation and Monitoring Committee. I am fully committed to the community having access to information on aircraft noise in a form that is understandable and useful.

Relationship Between LTOP and Slots

I do not accept that there is an inconsistency between LTOP and the Airport's slots regime. However, I fully recognise the need for these two important programs to be harmonised as closely as possible. To this end my Department is working with Airservices and the Slots Coordinator to facilitate a smoothing of demand in the noise sharing hours with a view to increasing the use of the noise sharing modes.

Insulation Program

I have noted the resolution in relation to an extension of the boundaries of the insulation program. As I indicated in my letter of 18 February 1999 this a matter which I have under on-going consideration.

Kurnell Compensation

I have also noted the views of the Forum concerning the provision of compensation for the residents of Kurnell. In July last year, the former Minister provided a detailed position paper on this matter to the previous Chairman Mr Joe Hockey. A copy of this is attached for your information. I am not aware of any additional material which would warrant a re-examination of this position.

Terms of Reference

I fully support the suggested additional words in the Forum's Terms of Reference. I have arranged for the Secretariat to send out a copy of the revised wording for the information of members.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Minister 7 April 1999

JOHN ANDERSON