



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

Senator Marise Payne
Chair, Sydney Airport Community Forum
PO Box A301

Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2002 concerning the outcomes of the meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) on 20 September 2002. I regret the delay in replying.

I have been pleased to learn that since the Forum's re-establishment both meetings have been well supported. As you will appreciate, successful meetings demonstrate the importance I place on such Forums for conveying information among the Government, its agencies and the wider community.

With regard to the Review of the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP), I have previously indicated that I will be consulting with the Prime Minister but this should not stop the Forum or my Department from undertaking preliminary work on issues such as funding, the selection of the consultant and the final terms of reference. I am still considering the advice I recently received from the Department on this matter.

I would agree that the Forum should settle on certain standards for the communication of the goals of the LTOP review. It may be that some of the community representatives, acting as private individuals, could require some assistance to communicate with their areas. I would suggest that this is a matter to be canvassed in the discussions between my Department and SACF on the budget for the review.

As I have indicated previously if the Kurnell community can demonstrate that it has received unfair treatment in relation to areas of similar noise exposure then I am willing to give Kurnell further consideration as a special case. In order to achieve this, the Kurnell community has to arrive at some noise indicator that differentiates it from these similar suburbs that do not receive insulation. However, any matter like changing the eligibility requirements for noise insulation that is put to me for consideration will require careful consideration by my Department and my Parliamentary Colleagues. I understand that Mr Hill has yet to provide input from the Kurnell community, as agreed in SACF and with my Department.

Concerning the Slots Scheme, I have indicated previously that I will welcome any practical suggestions for the improvement of the management of the Scheme. My Department advised that it will monitor exceedances and will readily assist SACF members in developing their suggestions for improvement.

With regard to increasing the membership of the LTOP Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC), the community members on the committee were nominated by SACF and their role is to represent the interests of all residents of Sydney not one particular location. The IMC was established as an Airservices technical committee for the introduction of LTOP with community representation. I would suggest that one option to consider would be rotating the Committee's community representatives to ensure wider geographic representation and input.

The decision to change the Noise Enquiry Service was an Airservices' decision. I reiterate that I strongly support all opportunities for the community to outline their concerns regarding aircraft noise. I am mindful that exploitation of the system poses a problem but it should not be the sole reason for discontinuing a valid means of gauging the level of community concern. Members should endeavour to develop options for overcoming any problems that hinder the provision of a worthwhile community service.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Signed by the Minister 25 February 2003
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JOHN ANDERSON