



HON WARREN TRUSS MP
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Reference: 04340-2006

Senator Marise Payne
Senator for New South Wales
Chair, Sydney Airport Community Forum
PO Box A301
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

23 MAY 2006

Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter of 10 May 2006 concerning the outcomes from the 45th meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF).

I note the Forum's views on the proposed regulatory regime to phase out marginally compliant Chapter 3 aircraft from the Australian fleet. Members have indicated particular opposition to a possible regime where airport operators would be the only bodies that could apply to have operating restrictions placed on these aircraft. I can understand their view that this could lead to an inconsistent application of any restrictions across Australia. I have asked my Department to examine the feasibility of monitoring the noise levels of these aircraft on an ongoing basis.

At this stage, I can assure you that the Forum's views will be taken into account in the development of draft amendments to the Air Navigation (Aircraft Noise) Regulations and that all interested parties will be fully consulted before any final determination is made on this matter. In the interim SACF will be aware that the major operator of marginally compliant aircraft in Australia, OzJet, has terminated its regular services.

Thank you for Members' clarification with regard to their proposal in relation to protected airspace around the leased federal airports. I will write separately to you on this issue, thanking Members for their views but canvassing the practical and legal consequences of such a proposal and suggesting that it would be best in the overall circumstances to await the outcome of my Department's scoping study into the issue.

In this regard, I note that my Department has made significant progress in its consultations with NSW planning agencies and councils and that their increasing co-operation since the matter was first brought to their attention is most welcome.

I hope that the Forum will be in a position to discuss the Supplement to its Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) Review Report at the 9 June 2006 meeting. I would appreciate advice on any further consultancy work into LTOP that SACF may wish to consider following on from the LTOP Review Supplement.

As you would be aware, I am still concerned with some of the accountability issues relating to the Community Advocate position. I am considering further legal and other advice from my Department and I would expect to write to you separately on this matter in the near future.

I am pleased to note that the Forum has been successful in arranging for Airservices Australia to restore its free call service for aircraft noise complaints.

Thank you once again for advising me on SACF's discussions. I look forward to further reports from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Truss', written in a cursive style.

WARREN TRUSS