



COPY

The Hon Mark Vaile MP

**Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader of The Nationals**

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Senator Marise Payne
Chair
Sydney Airport Community Forum
PO Box A301
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter dated 2 April 2007 advising of the outcomes of the 49th meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (the Forum).

The recent Australian National Audit Office audit of the Slots Management Scheme has highlighted a need for some refinement of the current system and my Department has agreed to the seven recommendations of the report and has commenced their implementation. As you are aware, the Government has legislated the maximum aircraft movement limit at Sydney Airport at 80 movements per hour and I can assure Forum members that this cap will remain in place.

Thank you for updating me on the current status of the Aviation Community Advocate (the Advocate) role. I look forward to the new tender process starting shortly and the position being filled as soon as possible. As a role which requires a balance of technical knowledge and advocacy skills, it is clearly a challenge to find the perfect candidate or team of candidates. I would appreciate you keeping me informed of the progress of the appointment of an Advocate.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss issues related to Kurnell as previously foreshadowed.

Yours sincerely

MARK VAILE