



**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Minister for Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development  
and Local Government  
Leader of the House

Reference: 07643-2009

16 NOV 2009

Mr Barry Cotter  
Chair  
Sydney Airport Community Forum  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Cotter

*Barry,*

Thank you for your letter dated 6 October 2009 about the outcomes of the third meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) on 25 September 2009.

I note SACF's resolution requesting my Department and Airservices Australia conduct a study into aircraft and air navigation technology.

I have asked my Department and Airservices to develop a short paper outlining the potential scope of this research, likely associated costs and the potential application of such a study to all our major leased airports, not just Sydney Airport. I will then be in a better position to consider the SACF proposal.

Advances in avionics potentially offer significant safety, environmental and efficiency benefits, and we must work together to grasp those benefits while also improving the management of aircraft noise in the vicinity of all Australian airports.

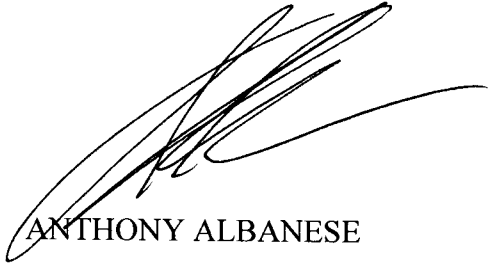
I note SACF's resolution regarding the aviation community advocate, a contractual position which finished on 13 September 2009.

As you know, SACF is a body made up of 20 democratically elected Members of Parliament and mayors representing communities affected by aircraft noise, as well as four community representatives. Given the government's budgetary position, we did not renew the aviation community advocate's \$100,000 per year contract when it expired recently because, in reality, we have 24 community advocates already on SACF.

I note SACF's request that I explore the possibility of the community advocate role being funded under the *Aircraft Noise Levy Collection Act 1995*. Collection of the levy for the noise amelioration program for Sydney Airport was ceased by the previous Government on 30 June 2006.

It remains open to SACF as a forum, if it wants the services in the future, to consider what form such a service might take and how these services might be funded.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

ANTHONY ALBANESE