

5 April 2016

Mr John Alexander, MP OAM
Chair
Sydney Airport Community Forum
c/o Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
Aviation Environment Branch
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT

Via email: sacf@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Mr Alexander

Re: Temporary restricted use of east-west runway due to NSW Roads and Maritime Services road project

NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is undertaking a number of projects around Sydney Airport to upgrade the road network.

These projects complement the on-airport roadworks we are undertaking to upgrade the journey to Sydney Airport. Our priority is to make it easier to travel to and from Sydney Airport by car, taxi, active or public transport.

RMS has advised that it is undertaking major roadworks associated with the closure of the level rail crossing on General Holmes Drive. The project involves extending Wentworth Avenue to the west from Botany Road to a new intersection at General Holmes Drive.

This Wentworth Avenue extension requires a temporary deviation of the rail track to facilitate the construction of a new rail bridge and road underpass.

This part of the project will use construction equipment that unavoidably and temporarily intrudes into the obstacle limitation surface (OLS) at the eastern end of Sydney Airport's east-west runway.

As aviation safety is our paramount consideration, operations on that runway will need to be temporarily restricted.

RMS has requested that runway use be restricted for the period from the start of the curfew at 11pm on 20 May 2016 until the end of the curfew at 6am on Monday 23 May 2016. Another similar period of restricted use is expected to be needed around 18 months after that.

Please note that the runway will not be closed.

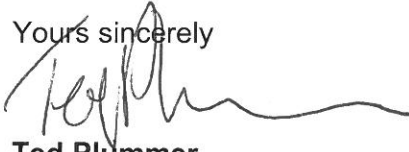
Aircraft will still be able to use the east-west runway and take-off to the west. Only landings from the east or west, and take-offs to the east will be restricted while the construction equipment is in place. Under the Long Term Operating Plan, noise sharing mode 7 can still be used during the construction period, subject to weather.

You may recall that, in late 2014, representatives from RMS and I briefed the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) about an earlier RMS proposal to restrict runway use for up to two weeks. Noise consultants Wilkinson Murray had, at that time, advised that the impact on operational aircraft noise of that two week period of restricted use would appear not to be significant. As such, the much shorter period of restricted use proposed now would have an even lesser impact.

It would be appreciated if you could pass this letter onto all members of SACF. I will brief SACF in more detail at its next meeting.

If you or any SACF member would like further information, please feel free to contact me on (02) 9667 6182.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Plummer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Plummer

Head of Government and Community Relations