

25th May 2018 (replacing draft version dated 28th April 2018)

John Alexander OAM MP
Chair, Sydney Airport Community Forum
c/- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Alexander

Re: Reports on Review of Aircraft Noise International Research

I am writing further to your letter of 3rd November 2017 following your original letter of 2nd August 2017 requesting my advice on: *“the status of any international studies recently completed or currently underway which may provide new evidence on the continued effectiveness of the 1982 National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL) study and the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) system.”* SACF records will show that I replied to that letter on 18th August 2017 and to your letter of 3rd November on 15th November 2017.

Your letter of 3rd November mentioned that SACF may not be able to access funds for noise studies at that time. In my letter of 15th November, I offered a preliminary professional quotation for a formal commission and undertook to commence the project on a voluntary basis while further funding considerations were undertaken by SACF and the Minister’s office.

On further reflection I realised that a project as large as the proposed international review of aircraft noise research would be best conducted in separate stages as follows:

- 1. Report 1: Aircraft Noise Metrics (see accompanying Report No.1 addressing Australia’s ANEF);**
- 2. Report 2: Socio-Acoustic Research in the U.K. (see accompanying Report No.2);**
- 3. Report 3: Socio-Acoustic Research in the EU and Canada (Report to be commissioned);**
- 4. Report 4: Socio-Acoustic Research in the U.S. (to address the anticipated report on the new U.S. study due in 2018) (Report to be commissioned);**
- 5. Report 5: Implications for Australia of Recent International Research (Including the issue of a new NAL survey) (Report to be commissioned).**

I have undertaken the first two of the proposed review stages and hereby submit the completed reports (No.1 and No.2 as per above) for consideration by SACF (see attached).

Please note that in the eight months since your initial invitation (2nd August 2017) to assist SACF with its international noise inquiries, I have committed to my home institution (University of the Sunshine Coast) to conduct a major psychological research project with a view to international publication. These obligations will prevent my undertaking any further work for SACF this year beyond delivering the first two reports (as above and per attached).

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In other words, SACF will need to engage another consultant to complete this project (viz., Stages 3-5 as specified above or else to devise an alternative approach to address SACF's inquiry needs). Unfortunately, my new university research commitments will prevent me from making a presentation on my reports at a meeting of SACF. No doubt one of SACF's expert members or departmental officers will be able to do so more than adequately.

I trust my attached reports are satisfactory for SACF's inquiries. I am more than willing to assist SACF further on an informal basis as you may require.

For your consideration
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Hede', written in a cursive style.

Andrew J Hede PhD
Professor Emeritus, University of the Sunshine Coast
Director, Hede Consulting, Sydney