



## The Hon Mark Vaile MP

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

*Reference: 00008-2007*

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

08 FEB 2007

Dear <sup>Marise</sup>~~Senator~~ Payne

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December 2006 advising the outcomes of the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF). I apologise for the delay in replying.

I appreciate your advice that the Kurnell community has again requested consideration of eligibility to receive aircraft noise insulation. As you are aware, Kurnell is currently outside the Australian Noise Exposure Index (ANEI) contours which are the sole determinant of eligibility for insulation under the current Sydney Airport Noise Amelioration Programme (SANAP). I would be happy to discuss this further with you and my office will call you to arrange a time.

I note that SACF has requested legislative change to allow the aircraft noise levy to be reinstated at Sydney Airport should noise insulation of eligible properties be required in the future. Although the Sydney noise levy ceased on 1 July 2006, the legislation underpinning SANAP remains in place, and Sydney Airport remains a qualifying airport should the levy need to be reintroduced at some time in the future. The process for reinstating a noise levy at Sydney Airport would involve an appropriate gazettal notice and the creation of a 'new' insulation programme.

My Department continues to monitor the noise exposure patterns at Sydney Airport, using annual ANEI maps to determine whether there is any change to the areas exposed to aircraft noise and will continue to provide annual advice on any future noise amelioration needs. Should the need for additional insulation works arise in future, the noise levy would be reinstated to fund these works.

In addition, I note SACF members' request for independent technical advice to assist them to better understand the ongoing operations of the Long Term Operating Plan. The appointment of an Aviation Community Advocate (ACA) for Sydney Airport issues will be important in this respect. I look forward to the advocate position being filled in the near future. The anticipated appointment of the ACA will provide SACF members with the necessary technical advice.

I look forward to further discussing these issues with you.

Yours sincerely

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

MARK VAILE