

SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM



Senator Helen Coonan
Senator for New South Wales
Chair

The Hon Bruce Baird MP
Federal Member for Cook

Cr Mark Bonanno
Mayor of Ashfield

Mr Bill Bourke
Australian Air Transport Association

Cr Stephen Bowers
Mayor of Lane Cove

Mrs Kerry Chikarovski MLA
State Member for Lane Cove

Mr John Clarke
Upper North Shore Community

Mr Randolph Griffiths
Sydney Airport Forum Pty Ltd

Mr Kevin Hill
Kurnell Community

Cr Steve Holroyd
Rockdale Council

The Hon Joe Hockey MP
Federal Member for North Sydney

Mr Robert McClelland MP
Federal Member for Barton

Mr Michael Megna
Inner West Community

Mr John Murphy MP
Federal Member for Lowe

Ms Sandra Nori MLA
State Member for Port Jackson

Ms Maria Patrinos
CRAAN

Cr Bill Pickering
Mayor of Hurstville

Cr Fiona Sinclair King
Wentworth Community

Cr Tracie Sonda
Mayor of Sutherland Shire

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24 May 2001

The Hon John Anderson MP
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing to convey the outcomes of the meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) held on Wednesday 16 May 2001.

As you are aware from the media reports, at the start of the meeting three members, Mrs Grusovin, Mr Albanese and Cr Cotter, expressed dissatisfaction with a number of issues relating to Government policy and the effectiveness of the Forum and then indicated that they were resigning. This had been foreshadowed at the previous SACF Meeting held in November 2000. I believe it is important that the constituencies represented by these three Members continue to have a voice on the Forum. I would therefore appreciate your views as to whether there should be attempts made to identify community representatives to be their replacements.

Members are particularly concerned that incidences of more than 80 movements per hour at the Airport are becoming a regular occurrence. The Forum believes that this, at the very least, breaches the spirit of the Airport's movements cap. We are now seeking further detailed advice on this issue from the Department and Airservices Australia and I anticipate that I will be raising it with you again in the near future.

Another question that generated extended debate was that of the non-attainment of the Long Term Operating Plan's (LTOP's) runway movements targets. At the end of the debate the Forum requested that I seek from you an indication of when the targets will be met for each of the geographic quadrants and what the long term level of use will be for each of the LTOP runway modes.

Issues associated with the sale of the Airport generated the most debate throughout the meeting. In particular there was a strong feeling that the sale is proceeding while significant aircraft noise problems remain unresolved and that this constitutes a breach of the Government's 1996 undertaking. Accordingly the Forum passed the following resolution.

"In light of the Coalition's Aviation Policy dated 13 February 1996 and repeated statements made in speeches such as the Airports Act 1996 Second Reading Speech by the then Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Sydney Airport

Community Forum demands that the Government NOT lease Sydney Airport and Sydney West Airport until there is a satisfactory solution to the current aircraft noise problems in Sydney, including achievement of LTOP and the building of a second airport."

There was discussion on the related question of the environmental impacts of the decision to sell the Airport and whether this had received the necessary legislative clearances. This discussion led to the Forum passing the following resolution.

"The recent actions by the Government to firstly expand the operations of Sydney Airport before building a second airport, and secondly to amend the slots legislation to force the use of larger aircraft, will have a significant impact on the environment of Sydney which has not previously been environmentally assessed. These actions must be subject to a full and proper environmental assessment to allow the significant environmental impacts on the people of Sydney to be understood, before they are allowed to proceed."

In the light of this resolution the meeting asked me to request that you 'prepare a referral of the actions as required by the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*'. I was also asked to write to the Minister for the Environment to advise him of this resolution and request he ensure that 'these actions by the Commonwealth be properly and thoroughly environmentally assessed'.

Further to this the Forum wishes to be advised when the Airport's Master Plan will be developed.

Members also discussed the proposal to introduce the use of the Precision Runway Monitor (PRM) for landings from the north. The Forum's view is that the trial of the PRM has shown that the use of PRM would impose a significant noise impact on residents living to the north of the Airport and therefore it submits that use of the radar for landings from the north should not be permitted.

The meeting also expressed concern about the NSW Government's proposal to amend the Kurnell Peninsula Regional Environmental Plan to facilitate the construction of a major residential development in the Kurnell Sandhills. I anticipate that the Forum will be making a formal submission to the NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning opposing such a development.

I look forward to your response to these issues.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Senator Helen Coonan 24 May 2001

Senator Helen Coonan
Chair