

SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM



27 June 2000

Dr Brendan Nelson MP

Federal Member for Bradfield
Chair

Mr Anthony Albanese MP

Federal Member for Grayndler

The Hon Bruce Baird MP

Federal Member for Cook

Cr Mark Bonanno

Mayor of Ashfield

Mr Bill Bourke

Australian Air Transport Association

Mrs Kerry Chikarovski MLA

State Member for Lane Cove

Mr John Clarke

Upper North Shore Community

Cr Barry Cotter

Mayor of Murrickville

Mr Chris Falvey

Australian Air Transport Association

Mr Randolph Griffiths

Sydney Airport Forum Pty Ltd

The Hon Deirdre Grusovin MLA

State Member for Heffron

Mr Kevin Hill

Kurnell Community

Cr Steve Holroyd

Rockdale Council

The Hon Joe Hockey MP

Federal Member for North Sydney

Mr David Lidbeter

Inner West Community

Mr Robert McClelland MP

Federal Member for Barton

Cr Ken McDonell

Mayor of Sutherland Shire

Mr John Murphy MP

Federal Member for Lowe

Ms Sandra Nori MLA

State Member for Port Jackson

Ms Maria Patrinos

CRAAN

Cr Andrew Petrie

Wentworth Community

Cr Anthony Roberts

Mayor of Lane Cove

Cr Philip Sansom

Mayor of Hurstville

Cr Ross Sheerin

Bennelong Community

Cr Dominic Sullivan

Mayor of Randwick

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Senator the Hon Robert Hill
Minister for the Environment
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

I am writing to convey to you outcomes of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) held on 4 February 2000 concerning the Precision Runway Monitor (PRM) at Sydney Airport.

As you are aware, the Government established the SACF in July 1996 as part of its commitment to addressing the noise impacts from Sydney Airport and in order to provide a mechanism for consultation between affected interests and the Government. SACF is the main body for consultation on the Sydney Airport Long Term Operating Plan, and members are drawn from a wide cross section of interests including community, industry, Local Councils and State and Federal elected representatives.

Members of the Forum have taken a particular interest in the proposal by Airservices Australia to introduce a Precision Runway Monitor (PRM) for approaches by aircraft to Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport (KSA) from the north. With the exception of the aviation industry representatives on the Forum, the members of SACF have consistently opposed the PRM proposal.

In light of this stance, most members of the Forum are concerned at the recent decision to conduct an Inquiry into the PRM proposal pursuant to sections 11 to 24 of the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*.

The majority of members resolved to advise you of their concerns through the following motion:

This committee wishes to record its grave concern that despite overwhelming public opposition to the proposal and significant failings in the Proponent's statement, the Minister has refused to conduct a full and proper Environmental Impact Assessment of PRM for landings from the north.

At its meeting, the Forum received a briefing on the procedures for the Inquiry and discussed in some detail the Terms of Reference you have set for it.

Members were concerned that the Terms of Reference do not appear to specifically require Dr McMichael to make a recommendation to you about whether the proposal should proceed or not based on his assessment of the likely environmental impacts. Members unanimously passed the following resolution in relation to the Terms of Reference:

The Committee calls upon the Minister for the Environment to advise as a matter of urgency:

- 1. Do the terms of Reference for the Inquiry enable a recommendation that the proposal not be proceeded with?*
- 2. What are the assessment criteria that will be used to determine whether the proposal is environmentally acceptable, and what is the threshold for acceptance?*

Indeed, my sense of the meeting was that members wished you to direct Dr McMichael to bring down a recommendation on whether or not the PRM should proceed.

The Forum is aware of the impending commencement of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the majority of SACF members agreed to the following resolution:

The Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) condemns the Minister for the Environment for ignoring the views of SACF that the Long Term Operating Plan be fully implemented and the implications of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 be assessed before the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the Precision Runway Monitor is commenced.

Finally, members of the Forum agreed to seek a broader initial round of public consultations in advance of the Inquiry commencing its hearings. To this end, members of the Forum carried the following resolution:

In the interest of the widest possible community consultation the Sydney Airport Community Forum calls upon the Minister and Dr McMichael to immediately organise a series of public meetings to explain to residents the basis for the inquiry and the impact of the precision Runway Monitor. Further, that Minister Anderson, Dr McMichael and Airservices Australia attend.

That the Minister and Dr McMichael invite the local Federal and State Representatives to explain their views to their constituents at these meetings.

That the meetings be held in, at least, the following areas: Marrickville, Drummoyne, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby.

In light of the timeframe that the Commission of Inquiry is subject to, I look forward to your timely consideration of, and advice on, the above resolutions and views of the Forum.

I would be happy to discuss these matters further with you.

Yours sincerely

*Signed by Dr Nelson MP
7 February 2000*

Dr Brendan Nelson MP
Chair