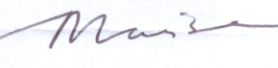




The Hon John Anderson MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader National Party of Australia

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

15 SEP 2003


Dear Senator Payne

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2003 concerning the outcomes from the June Meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF).

I have noted your request for a reply to your correspondence to be received in time to allow circulation before the next meeting.

I am pleased that the presentation to the Sydney Airport Community Panel was well received. For SACF, the opportunity to highlight the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) as a significant issue to the wider community is beneficial given that the Forum was established primarily to consult with relevant aviation entities on this aspect of Government policy.

I have noted the Forum's resolution concerning the recommendations contained in the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee Report on the Inquiry into the Development of the Brisbane Airport Corporation Master Plan. I can assure Members that my Department is cognisant of these recommendations, which will receive consideration during the current review of the *Airports Act 1996*.

The Government has gone to great lengths to alleviate the noise problems of residents within the 25 ANEF contour through the insulation programme. In relation to a reapplication for noise insulation once an initial offer has been declined, I understand that my Department will be providing an information paper on this matter for Members' consideration at the next meeting.

With regard to the Relocation of the Terminal Control Unit (TCU), I can understand Members' concern on this matter as it is potentially a major change in operations. I understand that the Board of Airservices Australia has considered this matter at its last meeting and Airservices personnel will be in a position to advise SACF Members of the details of the Board's decision at SACF's next meeting.

I understand that officers from my Department have also met with Mr Hill concerning noise insulation for Kurnell. I understand that Mr Hill was also approaching other noise experts in order to develop his proposal further. I look forward to receiving Mr Hill's proposal.

With regard to the Community Advocate position, I am receptive to this proposal provided Airservices agrees to the location of the position within the organisation and to funding arrangements. The position has to adequately provide effective community consultation. From my perspective, the Community Advocate must focus and report on the community aspects and in no way hinder Airservices' operational requirements. I understand that my Department has written to Airservices and yourself concerning the details of this proposal.

While I understand Members' disappointment concerning the 1800 number, this is a matter for Airservices Australia given its commercial status.

I support SACF's request to appoint a temporary Chair to cover unavoidable absences of the Chair providing that all other options have been considered. Given that the Government established SACF to address its policy issues, the appointment of any temporary Chair should ideally come from the same party as the Government.

Thank you for advising me of the outcomes of the last SACF meeting.

Yours sincerely



JOHN ANDERSON