

# SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM



**Senator Marise Payne**  
Senator for New South Wales  
Chair, Sydney Airport Community Forum

**The Hon Bruce Baird MP**  
Federal Member for Cook

**Mr Warren Bennett**  
Board of Airline Representatives in Australia

**Mr John Clarke**  
Upper North Shore Community

**Cr John Flowers**  
Mayor of Rockdale

**Mr Rod Gilmour**  
Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd.

**Mr Kevin Hill**  
Kurnell Community

**The Hon Joe Hockey MP**  
Federal Member for North Sydney

**Cr Sue Hoopmann**  
Bennelong Community

**Cr Rae Jones**  
Mayor of Ashfield

**Cr Ian Longbottom**  
Mayor of Lane Cove

**Mr Robert McClelland MP**  
Federal Member for Barton

**Mr Michael Megna**  
Inner West Community

**Cr Joanne Morris**  
Mayor of Hurstville

**Mr John Murphy MP**  
Federal Member for Lowe

**Ms Maria Patrinos**  
CRAAN

**Mr Anthony Roberts MLA**  
State Member for Lane Cove

**Cr Kevin Schreiber**  
Mayor of Sutherland Shire

**Cr Fiona Sinclair King**  
Wentworth Community

**Mr Murray Warfield**  
Airline Industry

Secretariat:  
PO Box A301  
Sydney South NSW 1235

[Freecall NSW]  
Tel: 1800 812 069  
Fax: 02 6274-6717  
Email: [sacf@dotars.gov.au](mailto:sacf@dotars.gov.au)  
[www.sacf.dotars.gov.au](http://www.sacf.dotars.gov.au)

26 July 2005

**The Hon Warren Truss MP**  
Deputy Leader of the Nationals  
Minister for Transport and Regional Services  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Truss

I am writing to convey to you the outcomes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) held on the 10 June 2005. It is my pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Forum to ensure you as Minister for Transport and Regional Services are advised of SACF's meetings and activities.

The primary issue for SACF at present is the Report on the Review of the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) Performance which community members considered did not fully address their concerns. The report was discussed at an extra meeting in April and following a subsequent teleconference a Schedule of Further Works was developed for consideration by the consultants. I understand the Department is still awaiting advice from the consultants concerning the costs to undertake this programme of further work.

In addition, SACF has been discussing issues concerning airspace protection for Sydney Airport which is in a unique position given its location. This is a matter of concern for members as in their view penetration of the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) by commercial high rise developments may limit options for future alternative LTOP flight paths.

The Department advised that a study has commenced on this matter which includes undertaking consultations with State Government Agencies and local Sydney councils. The outcomes of this process may require amendments to strengthen or update the existing regulations.

Another issue raised was the establishment of a community advocate position that looks at operational and performance issues at the airport from a community perspective. The position is currently being filled by a Departmental officer, whose location in the Department provides advantages and disadvantages. A number of issues require resolution, including the funding of the position, its location and its independence from the Department and other aviation agencies. However, you may care to note that the community representatives on the Forum put forward a proposal that the *Aircraft Noise Levy Collection Act 1995* fund the position and this is being investigated from a legal perspective. At the last meeting, Members decided to establish a Sub-committee with the aim of addressing these issues before the next meeting on 2 September.

You may also wish to note that the Sydney Airport Corporation Ltd conveyed to Members information about the comprehensive review that Sir John Wheeler will undertake of the Airport's security procedures. You will appreciate that Members are always receptive to receiving news of this nature on issues that affect the airport.

I will await your views on the issues raised at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Signed Senator Payne 26 July 2005
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Marise Payne  
Chair