



The Hon Warren Truss MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Member for Wide Bay

05 JUN 2014

PDR ID: MC14-000829

Mr Bob Hayes
82 Barons Crescent
HUNTERS HILL NSW 2110

Dear Mr Hayes

Thank you for your letter dated 22 May 2014, on behalf of yourself, Mr John Clarke and Mr John Woods, regarding reconsideration of the aviation community advocate position.

Since the cessation of the aviation community advocate position in 2009 a number of initiatives have been undertaken to address aircraft noise impacts for Sydney residents.

In particular, an Aircraft Noise Ombudsman has been appointed by the Airservices Australia Board to conduct independent administrative reviews of Airservices' complaint handling and broader management of aircraft noise issues. I understand the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman has been closely engaged with the Sydney Airport Community Forum (SACF) and other community aviation forums and his involvement has been welcomed by both community representatives and the aviation industry.

Airservices has improved its noise management significantly over recent years by:

- establishing an Environment Committee at Board level;
- refocusing the work of the Noise Complaints and Information Service to better resolve complaints; and
- improving its noise monitoring and regular noise information reports.

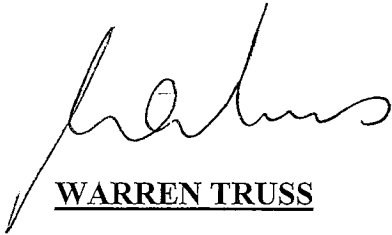
The Government is not in a fiscal position to support the reinstatement of an aviation community advocate. The issues of aircraft noise effects on the community are not unique to Sydney. I am confident that strong community representation through elected Members of Parliament, Local Councils and community representatives will ensure that the effects of aircraft noise will continue to be addressed through SACF.

I support the continued work of the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) Implementation and Monitoring Committee (IMC) in addressing technical issues associated with airport operations and noise sharing. I am also keen to ensure that my Department provides any assistance it can offer in helping to resolve any technical issues.

I have asked the Chair of SACF to review the Membership and Terms of Reference of SACF to ensure that it remains an effective forum for community engagement on Sydney Airport, and I welcome submissions from SACF Members about how to improve the effectiveness of this Forum. I am confident that we can build a group that has a high level of expertise and a willingness to work together to address the issues that arise.

I thank you once again for taking the time to bring these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely



WARREN TRUSS