Dear Mr. Alexander,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2014 regarding matters considered at the Sydney Airport Community Forum Meeting (SACF) on 21 November 2014.

I am pleased to learn that community members such as the bicycle representatives have provided feedback on the Airport’s draft Major Development Plan and that the Airport has revised its plans in response to that feedback. I note your new initiative to provide direct access for community members through the Community Question Time.

The Australian Government supports greater integration of transport infrastructure, and enhancing connectivity between the Airport and the road transport system is important if we are to get the best return on transport infrastructure investments. The Government is committed to the noise-sharing principles of the Sydney Airport Long Term Operating Plan and I would be concerned that residential development under major flight paths could lead to pressure to reduce the established noise sharing arrangements.

In regard to the review of business jets, I am confident that this will encourage the uptake of newer, quieter and more fuel efficient aircraft, and I do not expect that there will be a significant increase in the number of business aircraft movements during the curfew. I have asked my Department and Airservices Australia to provide information on curfew movements to SACF following the update to the list to monitor any community impact.

I thank you again for taking the time to write and inform me of your concerns on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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