



**Premier of New South Wales**  
**Minister for Western Sydney**

2013-269194

Mr Peter Fitzgerald  
Chair, Sydney Airport Community Forum  
C/- Aviation Environment Branch  
Department of Infrastructure and Transport  
GPO Box 594  
Canberra ACT 2601

29 SEP 2013

Dear Mr Fitzgerald

Thank you for writing again on behalf of the Sydney Airport Community Forum regarding aviation capacity in the Sydney Basin.

As outlined in my correspondence of 6 March 2013, the potential identification or development of a second airport site servicing Sydney is a matter for the Federal Government. The NSW Government's responsibility is to ensure the efficiency of the existing airport, including landside transport access.

In order to provide a unified position on future aviation capacity for Sydney, the NSW Government participated in the Joint Study into Aviation Capacity in the Sydney Region.

The Joint Study specifically supports increasing the flight cap from 80 to 85 flight movements per hour during peak periods and an increase in flight movements during the curfew shoulder period.

By adopting these reforms, the Federal Government can provide an immediate, cost-effective increase in airport capacity and a corresponding economic dividend to the community.

The impacts of noise from changes proposed by the Joint Study will be balanced by the introduction of newer aircraft, such as the A380 and Boeing Dreamliner. New generation aircraft are approximately 75% quieter than older aircraft.

I reiterate, the NSW Government opposes removing the curfew.

The Joint Study also identified congestion in the neighbouring precinct as a priority. The NSW Government, working alongside Sydney Airport, has committed \$282 million series of targeted upgrades in order to help relieve congestion. In addition to these minor works, the government has committed \$1.8 billion to the WestConnex motorway.

Thank you for again raising these issues with the Government. I look forward to working with the Sydney Airport Community Forum in the future.

Yours sincerely

**Barry O'Farrell MP**  
Premier