Questions On Notice

Australian Airports Association

1. Does the Australian Airports Association support a forensic audit being undertaken of use of slots at Sydney Airport and the associated concerns about high levels of flight cancellations, especially on Canberra-Sydney and Sydney-Melbourne routes?

A) **The Australian Airports Association (AAA) supports an audit of the use of slots in Sydney Airport.**

2. If such a forensic audit disclosed 'slot abuse' or gaming of the slots system, do you believe the Government would be entitled to reallocate slots to support enhanced competition? If so, on what basis should slots be reallocated?

A) **The AAA considers that where a forensic audit discloses 'slot abuse' or gaming of the system, those slots should be re-allocated through the slot allocation scheme managed by Airport Coordination Australia (ACA). However, the Australian Government should also implement the recommendations of the Harris Review into Demand Management at Sydney Airport as soon as possible, which will significantly improve slot allocation, usage and compliance, and therefore improve competition and consumer outcomes.**

3. Does the Australian Airports Association support a requirement for airlines to publish in real time the time and actual reason the decision is made to cancel an advertised flight?

A) **While the AAA seeks greater transparency for consumers, aviation cancellations can be due a variety of complex reasons and can occur due to issues across the network. The reasons for cancellations can vary and, in some cases, could be disputed across airlines, airports and air traffic control or other party. Careful consideration would need to be given to any system apportioning fault to flight cancellations.**

4. Does the Australian Airports Association have a view on where AirServices Australia has issued a direction resulting in a flight being cancelled, requiring the actual reasons for that direction resulting in cancellation to be published?

A) **Given AirServices Australia is responsible for air traffic control, which is responsible for some delays and cancellations of flights in the network, we would consider any system be at arm's length for impartiality.**