



Andrew Barr MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR PLANNING
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, SPORT AND RECREATION
MINISTER FOR GAMING AND RACING

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Jeanette Radcliffe
Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and
Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

Thank you for your letter of 6 July 2010 about the Inquiry into Airports Amendment Bill 2010.

I note that the Amendment Bill gives effect to some of the legislative reforms foreshadowed in the National Aviation Policy White Paper, particularly those concerning the planning framework. The ACT Government provided detailed submissions to the Commonwealth in the preparation of the White Paper, through submissions made on the preceding National Aviation Policy Issues paper in 2008, and the Green Paper in 2009.

I support the intention of the Bill to improve the requirements for airport master plans and major development plans. However, I am concerned that the Bill does not go far enough to address the issues of concern with these plans and with the airport planning framework generally.

For instance, the Bill requires master plans and major development plans to address road and transport impacts 'outside' or 'surrounding' the airport. However, as detailed in the ACT Government's submission on the Green Paper, it is critical that the plans address the metropolitan implications of development on airport land, not just the impacts on the immediately surrounding area. The government's submission made a number of other recommendations regarding the content and detail of master plans and major development plans. It recommended (amongst other matters) that master plans contain sufficient information of proposed developments and document the changes between the current and proposed master plan. It also recommended that the triggers or thresholds for major development plans be reviewed. These issues do not appear to be covered by the Bill.

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I note that the Bill requires airports to justify the provision of incompatible development such as residential dwellings, community care facilities and educational institutions on airport land. However, the ACT Government submission on the Green Paper also addressed this matter, calling for such uses to be prohibited at airports.

Please find attached a copy of the ACT Government submission on the Aviation Green Paper. The submission expands on the above issues and also addresses a range of other planning reforms that do not appear to be reflected in the Bill. These include the use of independent planning panels; closer scrutiny of non-aviation development; the need for sufficient information on the infrastructure implications of proposed development; the need for master plans to address climate change; and the arrangements for airports to contribute to the costs of off-site works required to support their growth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the inquiry. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Planning

30 JUL 2010

