

Our ref: F2004/07972

29 January 2010

Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport Reference Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Inquiry into Airservices Australia's Management  
of Aircraft Noise**

Randwick City Council is pleased to provide comments to the Inquiry into the effectiveness of Air Services Australia's (ASA) management of aircraft noise.

Randwick City is located within 5km of Sydney airport and is subject to significant aircraft noise from the east-west runway. This submission notes that aircraft noise is an ongoing issue of concern to the Council and community in relation to the number of aircraft movements over Randwick City, application of the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP), the community complaints process and the recent runway safety project.

In relation to the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) for Sydney Airport, in place since 1996, we understand that the LTOP target for sharing the burden of aircraft noise is for 13% of aircraft movements to occur to/from the east (with 55% south, 17% north and 15% west). Data from the ASA web for the past 12 years, from 1998 to 2009, notes that this 13% has been exceeded in 8 of the 12 years, so that the target has been met in only 4 years (1998, 1999, 2003 and 2004). This is unacceptable for Randwick City residents and we seek that this matter be addressed and analysed further in the Inquiry as a priority and to ensure accountability is achieved in relation to the LTOP. We note also that these results conflict with the LTOP goals of maximising 'over-the-water' operations in order to minimise flights over residential areas.

In relation to aircraft noise complaints, the Council notes that the ASA's web information for registering complaints is easy to navigate and contains suitable options including an online form, email or phone details. However information on the responses/follow-up actions from ASA appears to be limited to the number of complaints and complainants over time and locations. It should also include information on follow-up

measures undertaken or proposed, to give the Council and community assurance that the complaints are being adequately addressed.

Complaints made directly to the Council have shown a significant increase over the past 12 months, and from residents in Coogee, South Coogee, Lurline Bay and Maroubra. These relate to the increased number of flights and increased noise levels and disturbance (particularly in the late evening). These complaints would appear to be largely related to the current Runway End Safety Area (RESA) Project for the east-west runway being completed at the Airport by March this year. The Council understands that the RESA project required a temporary change in the flight 'mode' to be used on the runway (ie changing to Mode 15), with higher numbers of flights in the east over the project timeframe. We have sought and obtained assurance from ASA that Mode 15 will not continue beyond the project completion and the ASA also confirmed that the usual flight modes of operation provide better noise sharing as per the Long Term Operating Plan (LTOP) for the Airport. While the Council appreciates that substantial public information and consultation was undertaken when this project was in its draft proposal phase and upon project commencement, further updates throughout the project and leading up to its completion would have improved resident understanding and acceptance of the temporary period of noise exacerbation. This should be considered for future projects through, for example, inquiry recommendations on best practice consultation requirements.

While the issue of a second Sydney airport may lie outside the scope of this Inquiry, we note that this is a matter of critical importance for addressing aircraft noise impacts on residents. Sydney continues to face population pressures, which is being addressed partly through greater residential densities within the catchment of the Airport's noise sharing arrangements. Similarly, demands are continuing for additional and more flexible aircraft travel consistent with Sydney's importance as a global city. This reflects the need for planning for the second airport for Sydney to be reinvigorated.

Randwick City Council takes an active role in ensuring that the interests of our residents are addressed in relation to the operations and developments at Sydney Airport and we have provided feedback and submissions to all major legislative reviews, masterplans and development proposals at the Airport over many years.

If you would like any further information from the Council or have any queries regarding this submission, please contact me on 9399 0891 or Karen Armstrong, Manager Strategic Planning on 9399 0895.

Yours sincerely

  
Sima Truuvert  
**Director - City Planning**