

BCA

Business Council of Australia

4 November 2024

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Dear Committee Members

I am writing in respect of the Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill 2024 currently being considered by the Committee. The BCA has engaged with the Aviation White Paper process over the last 18 months, and, prior to this, the Harris Review.

Sydney Airport is one of the most important nodes in the nation's aviation infrastructure. Disruption at the Airport can have significant flow on impacts to flights nationwide. Improving the resilience of Sydney Airport's operations will benefit passengers and airport users, not just in Sydney but also nationally, reducing the impact of disruption events.

The Harris Review proposal for a recovery period, where a limited number of additional movements are permitted to allow for recovery operations following a significant disruption, is a very modest proposal in the BCA's view.

The circumstances whereby a recovery period can be activated will be limited, not just by legislation but also by the practical realities of airport operations. A recovery period will only be practical where there are benign weather conditions, infrastructure/services are available to support recovery operations, and it is in a period where the 80 movements are already allocated. Despite its modest scope, the Harris Review puts forward the opinion that the recovery period proposal "appears ... to be the largest single efficiency measure open to the Government at this time".

In that context, the use of the provision will be limited, but at the same time will deliver real benefit when its use is necessary.

As such, the BCA strongly supports the provisions in the Bill before the Committee that would facilitate the implementation of a recovery period.

Yours sincerely

Bran Black
Chief Executive
Business Council of Australia