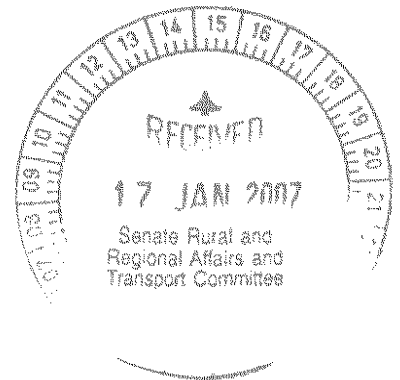


OUR REF:  
YOUR REF:

TRIM 13056-06

11 January 2007

Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam,

### **SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE AIRPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

This submission has been prepared in response to the Senate Inquiry into the Airports Amendment Bill 2006, which was introduced to the House of Representatives on 30 November 2006. Marrickville Council takes the view that the Bill contains proposed amendments to the Airports Act 2006 which would reduce opportunities for public consultation in regard to development at Sydney Airport (and other airports).

In particular, the Bill proposes to reduce the period of time for which preliminary draft major development plans are placed on public exhibition from the current period of 90 calendar days, to 45 calendar days. The Bill also proposes to raise the dollar threshold for construction costs, which is one of the factors determining when a major development plan needs to be submitted, from the current amount of \$10 million, to \$20 million – thereby increasing the amount of development that can occur without the need for a major development plan (and associated public exhibition and opportunity for public comment).

The Bill also contains a series of proposed amendments to the Act which would have the effect of reducing opportunities for public comment upon minor variations to major development plans, and preliminary environment strategies.

Reduced opportunities for public comment upon airport planning processes would reduce the extent to which Marrickville Council (and other interested parties) could make comment upon, and seek to influence, the activities of Sydney Airport.

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The Marrickville local government area is located immediately adjacent to Sydney Airport, beneath the flight path associated with the main north-south runway. Marrickville Council has always taken an interest in the activities of Sydney Airport, and again expresses its concern that the airport is not subjected to Local or State Government planning controls.

Council encourages the Senate Inquiry to consider the concerns of Marrickville Council, as expressed in this letter, in its consideration of the Airports Amendment Bill 2006.

If you have any questions regarding the matters raised in this letter, please contact Simon French, Team Leader, Planning Services on (02) 9335 2253

Yours faithfully



Judy Clarke  
**Manager Development Assessment and Planning Services**