



22 September 2014

Mr Ted Plummer
Manager – Government and Community Relations
Sydney Airport Corporation Limited
Via email: masterplan@syd.com.au

Dear Mr Plummer,

Re: Comments on

Thank you for the opportunity to review the T2/T3 Ground Access Solutions and Hotel Preliminary Draft Major Development Plan for Sydney Airport (Ground Access Solutions Plan).

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of sixteen Councils formed for mutual benefit through collaboration and cooperation. Member Councils deliver and maintain in excess of \$20 billion in local infrastructure and other assets across an area covering more than 600 square kilometres, with a population approximately one quarter of the population of greater metropolitan Sydney. Sydney Airport provides immense benefits to the SSROC region in terms of diverse and concentrated employment opportunities and close proximity to Airport facilities and services.

In the 2013 consultation on the Sydney Airport Preliminary Draft Master Plan, the Airport sought to appease concerns about its capacity and capability to manage future demand. According to its own modelling, by 2033 Sydney Airport is projected to handle approximately 74.3 million passengers, 388,000 passenger aircraft movements and 1.0 million tonnes of freight. SSROC has previously queried the Airport's traffic modelling and ability to provide sustainable capacity improvements that, in addition to the above, would be required to support:

- The “tens of thousands of daily meeters and greeters” referred to in the 2009 SACL submission to Infrastructure Australia;
- Leasing of 240,000sqm of commercial floor space within the Airport precinct, and
- The back-and-forth movements of the aircraft maintenance and various governance and administrative functions of the Airport that are to be moved off-site.

Lvl 2, Suite 2E, Hurstville House
34 MacMahon Street
Hurstville

PO Box 536
Hurstville NSW 1481

Ph: 9330 6455
Fx: 9330 6456
Email: ssroc@ssroc.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au

Key to these capacity improvements is increased road capacity within and around the Airport Precinct. To this end, Sydney Airport and the NSW Government have proposed considerable changes to a number of surrounding roads, including making a number of roads one-way, either by new road development or reconfiguration of existing roads within and outside the Airport boundary. Specifically, these include:

- construction of a new five-lane one-way exit from Shiers Avenue to Qantas Drive at the Robey Street intersection;
- reconfiguration of Sir Reginald Ansett Drive to a one-way entry to the precinct;
- reconfiguration of Ninth Street for easy entry and exit of buses and coaches to the Ground Transport Interchange;
- reconfiguring Robey Street and O’Riordan Street to one-way roads south of the Robey Street /O’Riordan Street intersection.

The proposed road works aim to improve traffic flow and to *“improve the experience of general commuter and Port Botany peak traffic that use the arterial roads surrounding the airport by increasing green light time at the major intersections by up to 33 per cent.”* (Ground Access Solutions Plan, p9).

In addition to this, the NSW Government is proposing changes to roads to the east of the Airport precinct to enable the development of the Westconnex, including:

- Replacement of the General Holmes Drive rail level crossing with a road underpass that links General Holmes Drive, Botany Road and Wentworth Avenue to improve the movement of rail freight and improve access to the Airport, Mascot and the eastern suburbs.
- Improvements to the Mill Pond Road intersections with General Holmes Drive and Botany Road to support future growth and access to the Airport.
- Widening Joyce Drive and General Holmes Drive between O’Riordan Street and Mill Pond Road to three lanes in each direction to improve traffic flow around the Airport and to Port Botany

The impact of these road works includes removal of some shared path and pedestrian infrastructure.

SSROC agrees that increasing demand for Sydney Airport and Port Botany, in addition to population growth and urban consolidation, will lead to increased traffic movements and worsening traffic congestion, resulting in poor economic, social and health outcomes. Changes to existing road infrastructure may be warranted, however it is important to cater for all road users, especially given that the vast majority of local traffic is trying to get around the Airport, not into it. In addition, a significant proportion of pedestrian and cycle users around the precinct are likely to be Airport staff.

The Ground Access Solutions Plan proposes improvements to facilities and connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians within the Airport, so it seems counter-productive that pedestrians and cyclists could find it more difficult to get to the Airport in the first place. Clearly, Sydney Airport and the NSW Government need to work together to ensure that there is a more balanced approach to Airport/Port precinct accessibility that does not disadvantage active transport users, particularly those workers walking or riding bicycles to work.

Furthermore, it is essential that the proposed road changes do not undermine the Airport's own investment in active transport and mass transit infrastructure, nor undermine the NSW Government's own efforts to increase bicycle mode share to 16% by 2020. For this reason, shared paths within and outside the Airport precinct must align effectively for the safety and amenity of all road users in and around the Airport precinct.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the T2/T3 Ground Access Solutions and Hotel Preliminary Draft Major Development Plan for Sydney Airport and hope you find these comments useful. We hope to see Sydney Airport further develop environmental action plans and sustainability strategies in conjunction with regional stakeholders, including local government, to ensure we are collaborating effectively to minimise the residential amenity and environmental sustainability impacts generated by Sydney Airport.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Sloan
Acting General Manager
Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils