

20 March 2009

National Aviation Policy Statement
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601



Dear Sir/Madam

National Aviation Policy Green Paper: Flight path to the future

Council would like to express its appreciation at the opportunity to have input into the above paper.

Council recognises that the Green Paper has far reaching implications for the future of aviation in Australia and so far as Bathurst Regional Council is concerned regional New South Wales.

Council is particularly concerned that access to Sydney Airport for regional aircraft be maintained at a competitive cost. During recent times the smaller aircraft operated by regional players have been replaced by larger more efficient aircraft. In the case of the service provided to Bathurst, Regional Express now operates a SAAB 340 with a seating capacity of 34.

Council's position is that the continued prosperity of regional NSW is dependent upon regional destinations having a reliable air service. There are numerous business people in Bathurst (and regional NSW) that rely heavily on a reliable air transport service to and from Sydney. Many of these people make connecting flights to overseas destinations. Additionally, many business people in regional NSW make day trips to Sydney for business purposes and this would not be practical if those flights were transferred to Bankstown airport.

If the above were to happen Council is firmly of the opinion that the financial viability of its airport would be placed in jeopardy, which in turn would have an adverse flow on to its economy.

Council therefore respectfully requests that a more detailed study be undertaken on the economic and social effects on the relocation of regional air services from Sydney Airport to Bankstown Airport.

In conclusion, Bathurst Regional Council is vehemently opposed to the relocation of regional air services away from Sydney Airport.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me or Council's General Manager, Mr David Sherley
on 6333 6205 if you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully



P Toole
MAYOR OF BATHURST