

8 July 2008

Mr. Michael Taylor
Secretary
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr. Taylor

Submission on the Issues Paper: *Towards a National Aviation Policy Statement*

Bankstown City Council welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on the Issues Paper, *Towards a National Aviation Policy Statement*. Council considers the move to review the current policies and arrangements for managing the nation's aviation infrastructure and systems as very positive and timely.

The Bankstown Airport, which is the nation's second busiest general aviation airport, is situated wholly within the City of Bankstown. Bankstown Airport's steady growth over decades has obviously had an impact on the amenity of our City suburbs. Nevertheless, there has been a general level of community acceptance of the Airport in its current form. The Council itself has been committed to a policy of supporting the existing general aviation (GA) nature of Airport operations.

Council also recognises the contributions of Bankstown Airport to the City's economy. However, significant ongoing development and expansion, both aviation and non-aviation, must occur in a way that is consistent with state and local planning regimes and effectively consider the wider effects of airport development on local communities, infrastructure and existing businesses.

Council has significant issues and concerns that need to be addressed during the process of formulation of a national aviation policy. These concerns mostly relate to current provisions under the Airports Act for land use planning and aviation growth management in airports. Among others, the following adverse consequences arising primarily from the exclusion of state and local planning regimes for non-aviation development in airports need to be addressed:

- Ineffective master planning and development approval process lacking in transparency, community input, and review
- Non-aviation development on airports, which are inconsistent with developments in surrounding areas and national competition policy principles
- Unmitigated impacts on local infrastructure, environment and property and the absence of any developer contributions meaning that Council or state government is required to pay for enhanced infrastructure and mitigation costs.

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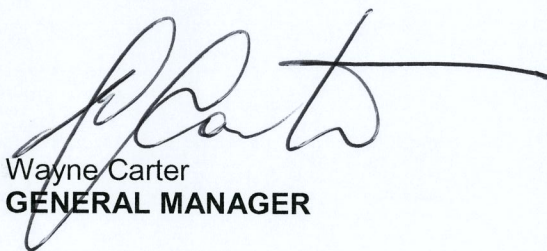
As the Federal Government will potentially be reviewing the current arrangements for managing the nation's aviation infrastructure and systems, it is considered an appropriate time to review and reform some of the arrangements for planning control and aviation growth management on privatised airports.

Council's submission, among others, recommends that local Councils be allowed the right to determine development applications for non-aviation uses on airports. Alternatively, an independent assessment panel or the local council may be allowed to assess such proposals to ensure consistency with local and state planning regimes. The federal Minister may then be required to give due consideration of the matters raised in the assessment report, when making his decision.

Given the significant issues raised in this submission, Council requests that the matters raised by Council receive a fair hearing.

If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised in our submission, Council's Group Manager, Mr. Greg Brown may be contacted on 02-9707 9526.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Carter', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wayne Carter
GENERAL MANAGER

Attached: Submission