



Ministerial Statement of Expectations Issued to the Slot Manager for Sydney Airport

Issued by the Hon Catherine King MP

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

1. Overview

This Statement of Expectations (SoE) outlines my expectations of how the Slot Manager at Sydney Airport will implement the latest regulatory requirements and support Australian Government objectives including for Sydney Airport Demand Management (SADM):

- competitive use of Sydney Airport's limited capacity
- fair application of the legislative framework to all operators
- efficient utilisation of slots, particularly during peak periods
- transparent monitoring and reporting of compliance.

The Slot Manager is appointed by me to allocate and manage slots within the existing 1,360 daily movement cap at Sydney Airport. This is the second SoE for the existing Slot Manager at Sydney Airport. It replaces the first SoE dated 1 April 2025 and reflects important changes to the SADM legislation which commenced on 26 October 2025 delivering on Initiative 11 of the 2024 [Aviation White Paper](#).

I expect the Slot Manager to execute its functions taking into account the matters set out below, and to respond with a Statement of Intent (Sol) within three months from this SoE.

I expect the Slot Manager to report on delivery against the Sol annually, commencing 12 months after the Sol's release, including by providing details of its work with my department to implement the new SADM legislation including about the transfer of slot use data, communications with operators, and the oversight of non-compliance with the Act.

2. Legislation

The functions of the Slot Manager are set out in the SADM legislation comprising:

- *Sydney Airport Demand Management Act 1997* (the Act)
- *Sydney Airport Demand Management Regulations 2025* (the Regulations)
- *Sydney Airport Slot Management Scheme 2025* (the Scheme)
- *Sydney Airport Demand Management (Compliance Committee) Directions 2026* (Directions to the Compliance Committee).

I expect the Slot Manager to perform its functions in accordance with the SADM legislation, the curfew period as per the *Sydney Airport Curfew Act 1995*, and industry best practices as per the Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines (WASG).

I expect the Slot Manager to work with my department to establish a shared understanding about matters such as the transfer of slot use data, communications with operators, and its monitoring of slots at Sydney Airport to support the implementation of changes to the Act and alignment with the statutory objectives.

3. Conflicts of interest

I expect the Slot Manager to take reasonable steps to address stakeholder concerns regarding real, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in slot allocation and management. This includes:

- providing an annual declaration to the department outlining its operational independence as set out in WASG's Annex 12.6 – *Independence of the Coordinator*
- providing written reasons to all affected operators (and a copy to the department) within 7 days of an allocation decision, where all of the following circumstances exist:
 - more than one operator applied for a slot
 - an operator which applied for the slot owns shares in the Slot Manager body corporate (or is related to an operator that owns shares in the Slot Manager) (if applicable)
 - the slot series was not allocated on the basis of historical precedence
- developing and publishing a conflict of interest policy outlining how potential and perceived conflicts of interest will be declared, recorded, addressed, and managed, including the process for addressing slot misuse where the operator owns shares in the Slot Manager body corporate (or is related to an operator than owns shares in the Slot Manager (if applicable).

4. Allocation of Slots

I expect the Slot Manager to meet the SADM objectives in allocating slots for aircraft movements at Sydney Airport through:

- fair application of the allocation requirements in the Scheme leading to competitive use of capacity, particularly for slots allocated other than on the basis of historic precedence as per section 22 of the Scheme;
- facilitating allocation of slots in line with the capacity declaration at Sydney Airport, working closely with the Sydney Airport operator and Airservices Australia to ensure that capacity management decisions are well informed, transparent, and geared towards delivering optimal slot utilisation, operational resilience, and equitable outcomes; and
- transparency of slot allocation by:
 - developing and publishing publicly available materials which outline how slot allocation decisions are made and recorded operationally
 - providing to operators and the airport-operator in accordance with Annex 12.10 of the WASG *Best Practice Guidelines for Availability of Slots and Schedule Information*:
 - › coordination parameters for the slot allocation process
 - › slot historic lists data (SHL)
 - › slot allocation list (SAL)
 - › slots allocated to airlines with new entrant status

- maintaining an audit trail outlining the basis for which slots have been allocated.

5. Administrative Actions

I expect the Slot Manager to make administrative decisions through an evidence-based and data driven approach and to engage with my department on its slot monitoring activities.

The Slot Manager will review gate movement data to identify apparent systemic instances of slot non-compliance and undertake investigations regarding the cause/rationale of the non-compliance in line with the guidance provided to the Slot Manager on slot misuse published on the department's website.

I expect the Slot Manager to work closely with the department, the Compliance Committee, Airservices Australia and the Sydney Airport operator to inform them of emerging issues relating to apparent patterns of slot non-compliance.

6. Stakeholder Engagement

I expect the Slot Manager to reach a shared understanding with my department about communications with air operators at Sydney Airport to support the achievement of the statutory objectives and align with the Australian Government's principles for regulation.

The Slot Manager will avoid bringing Australia's international reputation within the aviation community into disrepute. I expect the Slot Manager to keep the department informed about its public submissions, media releases and major speeches in relation to slot management at Sydney Airport. I further expect the Slot Manager to cooperate with any Parliamentary Committees in relation to slot management at Sydney Airport.

7. Slot Data

I expect the Slot Manager to agree arrangements with my department for the transfer of slot data to the department.

I expect the Slot Manager to establish and maintain formal data-transfer arrangements with Airservices Australia and the Sydney Airport operator, consistent with sections 40 and 43 of the Regulations.

8. Publication of information

I expect the Slot Manager to publish information on its website four times a year in accordance with the guidance published by the department on the publication of information, including:

- verification with airlines of the data intended for use in the publication
- publishing airlines' reasons for an off-slot movement and failure to use a slot, which are required to be recorded and kept by airlines under section 41(3) of the Regulations.

I expect the Slot Manager to publish details, information and guidance material in relation to slot application procedures as per section 15(5) of the Scheme. The guidance material will also include information to assist airlines in understanding the Slot Manager's application of the Act, Scheme and Regulations.

9. Compliance Committee

I expect the Slot Manager to discharge all responsibilities as a member of the Compliance Committee in accordance with the Act, including compliance with the requirements specified in the Scheme and my Directions to the Compliance Committee. In addition to its role as a member of the Compliance Committee, I expect the Slot Manager to support the Compliance Committee in its work by:

- supporting the Compliance Committee to identify potential reforms to improve compliance and regulatory efficiency, through the provision of data and subject matter expertise
- assisting the Compliance Committee to identify existing and emerging anti-competitive conduct through the provision of data and subject matter expertise
- supporting the Compliance Committee in responding to any requests I make relating to slot management at Sydney Airport.

10. Ministerial Directions

I expect the Slot Manager to contribute to the development and implementation of my directions. The Slot Manager should work collaboratively with the department to ensure my directions are effectively implemented at Sydney Airport. The Slot Manager will do this by:

- providing operational input and insights to inform a direction's design
- implementing directions in a timely and consistent manner
- monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of a direction
- providing feedback and lessons learned from the implementation of directions to inform regulatory development.