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23 October 2024

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

RE: Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill 2024

The Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF) is the peak industry group for aviation, tourism, transport, and related infrastructure sectors. TTF welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback supporting the Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill 2024 [Provisions]. TTF is supportive of the proposed provisions to create a more modern and efficient system for Sydney Airport and the wider aviation network.

The Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill 2024 is a key opportunity to modernise Sydney Airport's slot allocation scheme, consistent with the Harris Review recommendations and alignment with international best practice standards outlined in the Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines. Sydney Airport is a major gateway into Australia with 40 million international and domestic travellers passing through the airport annually and is a critical hub for transportation and freight. These provisions bring Sydney Airport's slot management system in line with the global best practices outlined within the Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines. This modernisation and alignment will provide greater efficiencies for Sydney Airport and the wider Australian aviation network.

TTF is supportive of the proposed reforms announced by the Minister, Hon. Catherine King MP in February 2024, which build off an extensive review process. These reforms will create a modernised process for slot allocation and the introduction of recovery periods after major operational disruptions. The recovery period is a critically important aspect of the changes that will ensure greater efficiencies across the entire domestic network and will prevent cancellations and delays, which have long been a source of frustration for both customers and operators. In particular, the implementation of a recovery period after the occurrence of a major weather event will be a breakthrough for the industry's ability to alleviate unavoidable disruptions. One example was July 2023, when there were 150 weather-related cancellations in one day. These cancellations do not just impact Sydney Airport but affect the entire domestic aviation network.

Regional accessibility and connectivity are another beneficial component of the reforms. The changes will improve outcomes for regional travellers who rely on air travel for essential services, work, health care, education and more.

TTF would encourage Parliament to enact this legislation before the end of 2024, to improve efficiency and customer experiences as the aviation industry prepares for the busy end-of-year season. The primary outcome of the suggested amendments will provide passengers with greater certainty, while maintaining operational flexibility and increased efficiencies across the aviation network. TTF encourages all sides of government to work collaboratively to pass these reforms without delay.

Thank you for taking these views into consideration, the committee shouldn't hesitate to reach out to TTF Head of Public Affairs Mitch Coveney on 0458 435 038 or mcoveney@ttf.org.au for further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Margy Osmond
Chief Executive
Tourism & Transport Forum