

23 January 2019

The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and
Regional Development
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister McCormack

Planned reduction in firefighting personnel at Adelaide Airport during curfew hours

Adelaide Airport is the principal airport of Adelaide, South Australia servicing just over 8.4 million passengers per year. It is located adjacent to the suburbs of West Beach, Lockleys, Brooklyn Park, West Richmond, Netley, North Plympton and Novar Gardens; it is located approximately 6 km from the Adelaide CBD and is located fully within the City of West Torrens which is home to around 60,000 residents.

My Council has become concerned of reports that Airservices Australia is planning to reduce aviation rescue and firefighting personnel hours at Adelaide Airport during curfew hours with reports indicating downgrading the emergency response cover from one officer and four firefighters to one officer and two firefighters.

The City of West Torrens is so concerned about this planned reduction in personnel hours of highly trained professionals that it resolved at its meeting held 15 January, 2019 that I write to you expressing concern that any reduction in personnel hours to downgrade the emergency response cover could jeopardise the ability to deal with aviation-related emergencies and security threats at Adelaide Airport.

I understand that the United Firefighters Union of Australia share similar concerns and as Minister, I ask that you take on board the concerns of Council and the Firefighters Union and advise Airservices Australia that you do not support any reduction in aviation rescue and firefighting personnel hours at Adelaide Airport during curfew hours.

Yours sincerely

Terry Bußs PSM
Chief Executive Officer

Cc:
Adelaide Airport Limited;
United Firefighters Union of Australia;
Airservices Australia



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

Ref: MC19-000424

15 FEB 2019

Mr Terry Buss PSM
Chief Executive Officer
City of West Torrens
165 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
HILTON SA 5033

Dear Mr Buss

Thank you for your letter of 23 January 2019 regarding concerns about Airservices Australia's (Airservices) proposed changes to staffing numbers at Adelaide Airport.

Australia has one of the best aviation safety records across the world, and one that we continually strive to maintain. I understand the concerns of the City of West Torrens and I assure you that safety remains the primary focus of Airservices' considerations.

As airport operations evolve, Airservices regularly reviews its Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Services (ARFFS) staffing profile to ensure the required level of service is maintained at all times. Airservices is conducting a review of its ARFFS staffing levels at Adelaide Airport during the curfew period where there are no regular passenger transport aircraft in operation.

Under Civil Aviation Safety Regulations, there is no requirement to provide any ARFFS coverage outside of the operating hours of passenger aircraft at Adelaide. However, reflecting its commitment to aviation safety, Airservices has elected to provide a Category 5 level of service overnight for many years and current staffing levels are above the minimum required for a Category 5 service. Its decision to review staffing levels does not diminish Airservices' commitment to continue to provide a Category 5 service during the curfew period.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention and I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCormack

