

File Ref: CR17-162850
1 March 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural
& Regional Affairs and Transport
Department of the Senate
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Airport Amendment Bill 2016.

Sutherland Shire Council is the local government authority for the Sutherland Shire LGA. Situated approximately 20km south of Kingsford-Smith Airport, the Shire has a population of approximately 226,000 (ABS ERP) of which 24,000 live in the coastal suburbs of Kurnell, Cronulla and Bundeena, which are under and adjacent to a major flight path to the airport.

Of the amendments proposed to the Airports Act 1996, the requirement for a new ANEF in a draft Airport Masterplan is a significant and welcome inclusion. The regular update of the ANEF will help local government and the community to better assess, manage and respond to the potential impacts from changes to aircraft activity and noise.

While the ANEF is important in making land use planning decisions, consideration should also be given in the Airports Amendment Bill 2016 to the inclusion of contour maps showing aircraft noise metrics such as N50 and N70. The inclusion of N50 and N70 would serve to complement the ANEF and better inform residents of aircraft noise impacts through a more intuitive noise measure that indicates the likely number of high noise events above 50dB(A) and 70dB(A) experienced on an average day. Aircraft noise at and above these levels can disturb conversations and other activities, and generally have a negative impact on the amenity of residents using indoor and outdoor spaces.

Council appreciates your consideration of its submission.

Yours sincerely

Péter Barber
Director Shire Planning