



ORDINARY MEETING  
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

ITEM 3.11

22 JULY 2014

**LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL****ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE FOLLOWING **SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM** FOR THE **ORDINARY MEETING** OF THE LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEICHHARDT TOWN HALL, 107 NORTON STREET, LEICHHARDT, ON **TUESDAY 22 JULY 2014**.

Peter Conroy  
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

**17 JULY 2014**

**BUSINESS:**

- ITEM 3.11 SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM - SUBMISSION ON  
REVIEW OF FORUM OPERATION AND STRUCTURE .....2

**ITEM 3.11 SYDNEY AIRPORT COMMUNITY FORUM - SUBMISSION ON REVIEW OF FORUM OPERATION AND STRUCTURE**

<b>Division</b>	Environment and Community Management
<b>Author</b>	Strategic Transport Planner
<b>Strategic Plan Key Service Area</b>	A Sustainable Environment Accessibility Business In The Community Sustainable Services And Assets Community Well-Being Place Where We Live And Work

**SUMMARY AND ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Purpose of Report</b>	This report has been prepared to provide Council with the opportunity to offer input into the proposed restructuring of the Sydney Airport Community Forum.
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Sydney Airport Community Forum was initially established in 1996 to address noise impacts of Sydney Airport in consultation with affected residents. It comprises representatives of Local, State and Federal Government, the airport and airline industry and the community.</p> <p>Item 6 of the Community Forum Meeting on 23 May 2014 flagged a review of the Terms of Reference, membership and operation of the Sydney Airport Community Forum for consideration.</p>
<b>Current Status</b>	The chair of the Sydney Airport Community Forum has requested that members provide a submission, prior to 30 June 2014, regarding possible changes to the Forum's Terms of Reference and membership. The submissions will be used by the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Transport in a review of the Forum's current structure and operations.
<b>Relationship to existing policy</b>	Consistent with Council resolutions C205/01, C427/04, C75/05, C82/10, C81/12 and C204/12.
<b>Financial and Resources Implications</b>	The Forum currently meets quarterly and requires the attendance of the Mayor or a delegated officer.
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>That Council make a submission to the Sydney Airport Community Forum as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leichhardt Council opposes any changes to the current membership of the Sydney</li> </ol>

	<p>Airport Community Forum that would result in a reduction of local government representation.</p> <p>2. Leichhardt Council opposes the proposed inclusion of additional State Planning agencies, Business/Tourism and Airline Representation on the basis that these agencies and businesses have a wide range of alternative mechanisms to provide input into Sydney Airport operations other than through the Community Forum.</p>
<b>Notifications</b>	Nil.
<b>Attachments</b>	Nil.

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## **THIS REPORT HAS BEEN AMENDED SINCE THE JUNE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **Purpose of Report**

This report has been prepared to provide Council with the opportunity to offer input into the proposed restructuring of the Sydney Airport Community Forum.

### **Recommendation**

That Council make a submission to the Sydney Airport Community Forum as follows:

1. Leichhardt Council opposes any changes to the current membership of the Sydney Airport Community Forum that would result in a reduction of local government representation.
2. Leichhardt Council opposes the proposed inclusion of additional State Planning agencies, Business/Tourism and Airline Representation on the basis that these agencies and businesses have a wide range of alternative mechanisms to provide input into Sydney Airport operations other than through the Community Forum.

### **Background**

The Sydney Airport Community Forum was formed in 1996, replacing the Sydney Airport Community Consultative Committee.

In general, no changes have been made to the broad membership of the Forum or its Terms of Reference since 1996. In the same time, Sydney Airport has experienced significant growth and issues beyond aircraft noise have become more prevalent. Recently a number of key stakeholders have raised concerns about the membership of the Sydney Airport Community Forum, its exclusive focus on aircraft noise and its need to engage across a broader range of issues. As a consequence, Item 6 of the meeting of the Sydney Airport Community Forum held on 23 May 2014 flagged the review of the operation, membership and Terms of Reference of the forum for consideration.

### **Report**

#### **1.0 Overview**

Leichhardt Council is a member of the Sydney Airport Community Forum. In response to the Federal Government's proposed review of the Sydney Airport Community Forum, the Forum's Chair has requested member organisations provide suggestions for the revised operation of the Forum by 30 June 2014. Council staff have contacted the Forum to advise that this matter was not considered at the June Ordinary Council Meeting and the Forum have advised that they are willing to accept a submission from Council after the deadline.

## **2.0 Current Situation**

### **2.1 Current Terms of Reference of Sydney Airport Community Forum**

Under its current Terms of Reference the Forum:

- Provides advice to the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Sydney Airport Corporation and aviation authorities on the abatement of aircraft noise and related environmental issues at Sydney Airport;
- Is the main group for consultation on the Long Term Operating Plan for the Airport; and
- Provides advice to aviation authorities to facilitate improved consultation and information flows to the community about the Airport's operations.

### **2.2 Current Membership of Sydney Airport Community Forum**

The current membership of the Forum comprises representatives of ten (10) Federal electorates, two state electorates and six (6) local government areas. In addition there are two community representatives, two airline representatives and a representative of Sydney Airport.

#### ***2.2.1 Federal Government Representatives***

The ten Federal electorates around the airport are represented by their Members of Parliament.

#### ***2.2.2 State Government Representation***

Two state government members represent the electorates of Marrickville and Heffron at the Forum.

#### ***2.2.3 Local Government Representation***

The following eight local Councils are current members of the Forum:

- Botany Bay;
- Rockdale;
- Sutherland;
- Marrickville;
- Leichhardt;
- Ashfield;
- Randwick; and
- Canterbury.

As well as representing local residents and businesses, these Councils are responsible for the long term planning and development of their local government area.

### **2.2.4 Community Representation**

Currently there are two community representatives on the Forum; one representing the west and one the south. These community members have been Forum members since the mid-1990s.

### **2.2.5 Airline Representation**

The Forum currently includes two airline representatives; one representative from Virgin Australia and one from the Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (a peak body for international airlines).

## **3.0 Changes to Sydney Airport Community Forum as Proposed by its Chair and Secretariat**

The Sydney Airport Community Forum Secretariat and Chair has proposed a number of changes to the Terms of Reference, membership and operation of the forum.

### **3.1 Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference**

In contrast to other Community Aviation Consultation Groups, the Forum's current scope is generally limited to providing advice on aircraft noise issues. Over time the Forum has unofficially evolved its role to include other aspects, such as airport master planning and ground transport operations.

In order to bring the Forum into line with advisory groups at other major airports and to address contemporary issues associated with the role of Sydney Airport, it has been suggested by the Sydney Airport Community Forum Secretariat and Chair that the Forum's Terms of Reference be expanded to include:

- Improvements or changes to airport facilities;
- Plans for future development and steps being taken to implement the current Sydney Airport Master Plan, develop a new Master Plan or prepare a Major Development Plan;
- Changes in aviation services (including new or expanded airline services) and aircraft noise (including abatement of noise and implementation of the *Long Term Operating Plan for Sydney Airport*);
- Environmental issues (including implementation of Sydney Airport's *5-Year Environment Strategy*);
- Ground transport and access issues (including implementation of Sydney Airport's *5-Year Ground Transport Plan*);
- Planning, regulatory, and policy changes affecting Sydney Airport; and
- Reports from Airservices Australia and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority on issues affecting the community.

### *Council Officer comment*

It is considered that the changes to the Forum's Terms of Reference as proposed by its Chair and Secretariat may be of benefit in improving community input into issues associated with Sydney Airport.

Additionally, the Forum's Terms of Reference may need to be further expanded to include:

- The ability of the Forum to assist in the development of an operational plan for Sydney's airports which establishes the relationship between Sydney Airport (KSA) and the proposed new Western Sydney Airport (Badgerys Creek);
- Provision for the Forum to be chaired by an independent Chair appointed by the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Transport in consultation with members of the Sydney Airport Community Forum (rather than being appointed by the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, as is the current practice); and
- The ability of the Forum to be involved in ensuring that existing air movement caps and curfews be retained and adhered to.

## **3.2 Possible Changes to Membership**

Forum members have been requested to consider the following membership issues.

### **3.2.1 Unnecessarily Large Forum Size**

The Forum currently comprises 25 members, including the Chair. During the past decade other major airports have established Community Aviation Consultation Groups to provide consultation with members of the community. Those groups tend to be smaller in size, comprising 12-15 members and have broader Terms of Reference.

### *Council Officer Comment*

In reviewing possible changes to the Forum's size and membership the initiator did not consider the political composition of Sydney (some 43 Councils) in comparison with other cities such as Brisbane and Melbourne that have significantly fewer local government areas affected by airport related issues. It is recommended that the Forum not be reduced in size.

### **3.2.2 Multiplicity of Representation by Elected Members**

Community interests are currently represented by:

- Ten Federal Members of Parliament;
- Two State Members of Parliament;
- Eight Local Government Representatives; and
- Two Community Representatives.

The Forum's Chair and Secretariat have suggested that the jurisdiction of these representatives represents a duplication of representation.



### *Council Officer comment*

Each level of government has a different sphere of responsibility, influence and decision making capability. Particularly important are the roles of:

- Federal government in airport operation and expansion;
- State agencies in the provision of transportation and long term land use planning; and
- Local government in the development of long term local environmental plans and development control plans, as well as its more direct interface with the local community.

Having regard to these considerations and the general operational constraints of transport in NSW, it is suggested that the Sydney Airport Community Forum retain all existing local government representatives.

### **3.2.3 Inclusion of State Transport and Planning Agencies, Business/Tourism and Airline Representation**

The Forum currently includes two airline representatives; one representative from Virgin Australia and one from the Board of Airline Representatives of Australia. It has been suggested that consideration should be given to the inclusion of a representative from Qantas. Other airport consultation groups have representatives from both major domestic carriers. Other airport consultation groups generally include representatives from State Transport and Planning Departments which help to broaden the focus of these groups to include planning, ground transport and environmental management issues.

It has been suggested that consideration be given to the inclusion of members who represent Transport for NSW and the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure, business and tourism interests (such as the Tourism and Transport Forum).

### *Council officer comment*

In order for the Sydney Airport Community Forum to adequately address all issues arising from the operation of the Airport, it may be appropriate to expand the membership to include:

- Transport for NSW;
- Qantas; and
- Representative(s) from the commerce and tourism industries (eg. The Tourism and Transport Forum, NSW State Chamber of Commerce, Sydney Chamber of Commerce and/or Tourism NSW).

### **3.2.6 Inclusion of Additional Councils and government agencies**

Eight Councils are currently represented on the Forum, however several adjacent Councils may also benefit from inclusion.

Consequently, it has been suggested that, should broader local government representation be considered desirable, this could be achieved by introducing a rotational basis of representation. This approach would involve a larger number of Councils, however, they would only attend a limited number of forum meetings each year and it could prove difficult to maintain a working knowledge base for the rotated representatives.

#### *Council Officer Comment*

It is suggested that:

- Other affected Councils (eg. Randwick) be invited to become a member of the Community Forum; and
- Other appropriate government agencies (eg. NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Sydney Buses and Sydney Trains) should be invited to nominate a representative to attend on an ad hoc basis, dependent upon the subject matter being addressed at each Forum meeting. This representative should be forwarded all documentation associated with the Forum and be responsible for providing the Forum with any relevant information that would assist their consideration of issues associated with the airport.

### **3.2.7 Revision of Community Representation**

The Forum currently has two community representatives; one representing the west and one the south. These community members have been with the Forum since the mid-1990s and it has been requested that consideration be given to the process of the appointment and lack of any opportunity to refresh the community membership.

It has been proposed that the Minister could continue to appoint community representatives; however this could be on the basis of a recommendation from Forum members and that three year, fixed term, appointments could be introduced.

Additionally, consideration might be given to including community representatives from the North and/or East.

#### *Council Officer Comment*

Given the growth of Sydney Airport since the Forum was originally established it is recommended that the Community Forum include additional community representatives from areas to the north and east of the airport. Further, it is considered reasonable to appoint such representatives for fixed terms that could be renewable at the Minister's discretion, based on the advice of the Forum.

### **Summary/Conclusions**

The Sydney Airport Community Forum has been operating in its current form since 1996. Since that time Sydney Airport, the surrounding suburbs and the issues associated with the airport have changed significantly. Consequently, it is considered appropriate to review the format and operation of the Forum.

It is also suggested that in order to develop a more comprehensive 'Local Government' position, it may be beneficial to meet with other Local Government stakeholders and ascertain their position in relation to the various points covered in this report.