



**The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Leader of the House

*Reference: 04701-2012*

The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP  
Premier of NSW  
Minister for Western Sydney  
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

3 DEC 2012

Dear Premier

*Barry*

You will recall I wrote to you on 2 March 2012 proposing federal-state cooperation to address aviation capacity constraints in the Sydney region. In light of the release of *First things first: State Infrastructure Strategy 2012-2032* by Infrastructure NSW (INSW) and the Australian Government's *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper, I am writing to you again to seek your commitment to a joint approach.

These two reports highlight the importance of Sydney as the primary destination for international visitors and Australia's principal domestic airport. Both reports also make clear that aviation capacity is critical to lifting our productivity and international competitiveness.

I particularly note the INSW report urges the NSW Government to work collaboratively with the Australian Government to address the need for a second Sydney airport.

As you know, INSW's findings are consistent with the *Joint Study on Aviation Capacity in the Sydney Region* undertaken with officials from your Department of Planning and Infrastructure and Transport for NSW and delivered to our respective governments in March this year.

The simple reality is, and on this independent aviation experts agree, Sydney needs a second airport sooner rather than later. Given the time required to bring a new airport into service, further delays are unacceptable.

That is why the Government is moving ahead with analysis of the Wilton site and opening Richmond RAAF Base to limited civil operations.

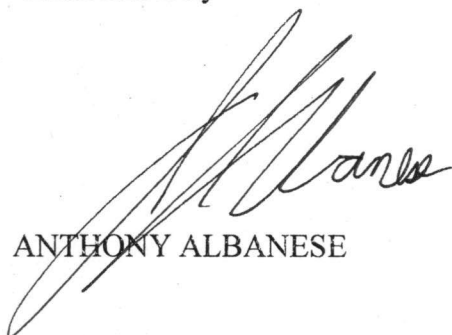
NSW is bearing significant cost from Sydney's growing airport congestion. There are no new slots available at peak times - a considerable constraint for business and regional passengers. This does not bode well for Sydney's capacity to handle the forecast leisure and business travel coming from Asia's growing economic prosperity. It is expected NSW would miss out on billions in economic benefits and forego thousands of full time jobs where they are needed most.

On the other hand, a second Sydney airport will deliver tangible benefits to Sydney, as shown from experiences around the world. In this context, I note your Government has identified the need to create over 400,000 jobs in South and Western Sydney, without clearly identifying the economic generator. A second Sydney airport will provide a catalyst for a broad range of jobs and generate economic activity that will lift prosperity in Sydney.

I strongly encourage you to commit to a cooperative approach to solving Sydney's aviation needs.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

ANTHONY ALBANESE