



Thursday, 10 December 2020

Re: Submission from Narrabri Shire Council to the Review of Sydney Airport demand management

Attention: Director Productivity,

The following is a submission to the Review of Sydney Airport demand management from Narrabri Shire Council.

Aircraft types

Narrabri Shire Council owns and operates the Narrabri Airport. Predominately, the Regular Public Transport (RPT) operations are via a 19 seat Metroliner, operated via Link Airways. These operations operate outside the main peak in Sydney Airport, due to difficulty in obtaining slots under the current arrangements.

Narrabri Shire Council would like to see aircraft under 20 seats exempted from the 80 movement an hour cap, currently in place at Sydney Airport. These aircraft operate with minimum noise, predominately on the second parallel runway. Council believes that this is a sensible approach to one of Australia's busiest airports and would assist the needs of smaller airlines and the communities that they serve. Council believes this would assist in increasing the regional ring fence on slots for all regional communities, effectively raising the amount of smaller RPT aircraft types that could operate. The current Sydney slot system is a barrier to Sydney and the regions.

Other factors affecting travel to and from Narrabri and Sydney

The current slot system is an inhibitor to local businesses needing to do business in Sydney, as well as those travelling out to Narrabri. Currently it is impossible to travel to Sydney and do business in a day or return to Narrabri early the next day. The normal service operates from Narrabri at 11:15 and returning at 13:15. Passenger's from Narrabri currently need to remain in Sydney overnight, adding to the cost of doing business. This is exacerbated on a Friday, with no way of returning to Narrabri until a Monday afternoon. Narrabri passengers expect to be able to travel to and from Narrabri, and support their local airline, without the need to go to Moree or Tamworth, which are 1 and 2 hours by road respectively, and to be



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able to get home either the same day or early the next day. Travelling from Narrabri also cuts down any fatigue issues of driving home after landing in other airports.

Many residents will simply make the drive to Sydney, which is a 6.5 hour commute by car. This is not ideal for anyone wanting to get to Sydney in a timely and safe manner.

Narrabri Shire Council would request that if the 19 seat aircraft are not exempted from the Sydney Slot scheme, that at least one prime slot would be allocated to routes currently in existence; e.g. NBR/SYD.

Whilst Council appreciates that airlines themselves apply for these slots, it would protect the expectations of Narrabri community, if the slot was allocated to the route. Currently the airlines can move the slot to a more profitable route at their will, and any other airline willing to take up the route, then has to compete again for this slot, with the community losing out.

Council would request that the consideration of allowing aircraft under 20 seats to be exempted from the current 80 movements an hour cap. Council hopes that our concerns can be addressed and appreciates your consideration on this matter.

