

The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie ST
Sydney NSW 2000

11 July 2014

ABN: 11 527 622 696
Level 1/Suite 13
130-140 Banna Ave
Griffith NSW 2680

PO Box 8025
Griffith East NSW 2680
Ph: 02 6964 5540
Fax: 02 6964 4090

48 Fitzmaurice St (PO Box 479)
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650
Ph: 02 6921 1007
Fax: 02 6921 4679

www.rdariverina.org.au

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Response to the 'Inquiry into regional aviation services' hearing "supplementary question".

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina is responding to the supplementary question requested after the regional aviation services hearing on 10 June 2014. Information is provided in response to the supplementary question:

"You mention that RDA Riverina would like the NSW Government to commission the development of a NSW Aviation Strategy (page 1). What do you see as the overall objective of this strategy and the outcomes it could achieve?"

NSW Aviation Strategy

As indicated in the Australia Airports Association submission the strategy would establish a clear vision for aviation in NSW that will support and promote the economic and social development of the State through the provision of safe, affordable, efficient and effective aviation services and infrastructure. It would also aim to provide a sound framework for policy setting, future planning and investment in NSW air services and airport infrastructure.

In addition to this RDA Riverina believe a NSW Aviation Strategy could provide further detail for the aviation sector, particularly regional aviation that would integrate with the current NSW Transport Masterplan and address the broader goals in the State Governments 10 year strategic plan, *NSW 2021*.

The NSW Transport MasterPlan provides an overarching framework for Transport activity and provides a solid set of objectives. The NSW Aviation strategy could use the 8 objectives already in place but apply them to the aviation sector specifically.

- Improve quality of service
- Improve liveability
- Support economic growth and productivity
- Support regional development
- Improve safety and security
- Reduce social disadvantage
- Improve sustainability
- Strengthen transport planning processes

Since the Commonwealth & State Governments commitment to a second airport in Sydney at Badgery's Creek significant long term planning and research is required to capitalise on the



opportunities of this new piece of infrastructure for NSW including the regions. The development of this airport does not reduce the requirement for regional airlines services having the capacity to access Kingsford Smith Airport but further research is required from regional stakeholders including local government, business, industry groups and government agencies regarding the potential use of airlines services and where they are currently travelling to in Sydney and where they plan to in the future. Also detail regarding what passengers using these services require when they get to Sydney such as train or taxi services. What is a fair travel time to travel to their end destination and what is their preferred mode of transport?

Further research into freight capabilities via air from the regions is also required. Some regions utilise this currently but for many this hasn't been a priority or option. With new niche markets establishing domestically (metropolitan centres) and internationally particularly in the agrifood sector new opportunities may be realised.

The development of NSW Aviation Plan should involve government and industry. A collaborative approach in the development of the plan ensuring industry associations, airlines, Local Government, Government Agencies (NSW Transport, Trade & Investment NSW etc) and representatives from relevant Commonwealth agencies to ensure the plan is integrated between the three tiers of government, reducing duplication of resources and services.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Watson
Chair
RDA Riverina