

September 19 2011

Economic Regulation of Airport Services  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City  
Australia ACT 2601

Dear Madam/Sir,

Productivity Commission - Economic Regulation of Airport Services  
NBAA Comments following release of the Draft Report

The purpose of this letter is to support submissions to the Productivity Commission by the Australian Business Aircraft Association (ABAA). We are concerned that access by international business aviation operators to Australia's primary capital city airports, at a fair and reasonable cost may be at risk, due the possible use of undue market power of airport operators.

Founded in 1947 and based in Washington, DC, the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) is the leading organization for companies that rely on general aviation aircraft to help make their businesses more efficient, productive and successful. The Association represents more than 8,000 companies, which operate in excess of 12, 000 aircrafts. We provide a multitude of services to the USA and worldwide business aviation community.

Business aviation is a productivity-enhancing tool used by thousands of companies and organizations throughout the world. These forward-thinking entities utilize business aircraft to minimize travel time, enhance the productivity, safety and security of key personnel, increase their presence at outlying company facilities and in the marketplace, and ensure the most expeditious delivery of critical materials, tools and equipment.

Use of business jets for international travel has increased significantly in the past 10 years. This in turn has led to increased demand for larger, long-range airplanes, which routinely operate on intercontinental flights across the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans to far off destinations such as Australia, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

These larger and heavier business jets often need to arrive at major capital city airports throughout the world. These include Australian airports such as Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth. Business jet flights to Australia are expected to continue to increase in the future as the potential of the resources sector and other industries continue to be realized.

The importance of Sydney Airport, as the gateway to Australia cannot be overstated. The continuing availability of fair access to Sydney Airport, at a reasonable cost, is critical for business aviation, as most arrivals from overseas are at Sydney.

The growth of business aviation throughout the world in the past 10 years has provided the opportunity for thousands of companies to expand their business more efficiently and at a faster rate than otherwise would have been possible.

The NBAA recommends that the Productivity Commission takes into account the contribution that business aviation has made to Australia's GDP growth in recent decades.

Sincerely,

Ed Bolen  
President & CEO  
National Business Aviation Association