

MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - SYDNEY AIRPORT CURFEW

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I would like to bring to Council's attention that on Saturday, 24 May 2014, an article titled "Ease Sydney Airport curfew and add more flights, says NSW" was published in the Sydney Morning Herald. The article quoted Deputy Premier, the Hon. Andrew Stoner MP, in his capacity as Minister for Tourism and Major Events, who was speaking at a recent conference convened by the Tourism & Transport Forum (TTF).

The following extract is taken from the SMH article:

The NSW government intends lobbying Canberra for more flights through Sydney Airport, potentially in the early morning and late at night.

The airport is restricted to 80 an hour but NSW Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner said he would be "vigorously lobbying" his federal counterparts for change.

The state government wants 85 flights an hour.

This would require rewriting the federal Sydney Airport Demand Management Act, which would raise the ire of people near the flight paths.

Federal laws also aim to prevent certain operations between 11pm and 6am, but Mr Stoner said curfew laws should also become more flexible.

"I will be vigorously lobbying the commonwealth to increase the movement cap during peak periods," Mr Stoner said at the Tourism & Transport Forum outlook conference in Sydney on Friday. "I've had some preliminary discussions with a couple of the relevant ministers. The early indications are good."

The City of Canada Bay has been actively involved in the airport curfew debate for many years, with the aim of ensuring that the impact of aircraft movements and noise over the City is minimised.

The proposal by the NSW Government needs to be vigorously challenged as any reduction in the current hours (11pm – 6am) that the airport curfew operates is likely to have an adverse impact on our community.

Councillors will recall that at the meeting held 18 February 2014, a resolution was passed supporting the second Sydney Airport at Badgerys Creek. A key reason for supporting the second Sydney Airport was the acknowledgement that any incremental increase in the number of arrivals and departures at Kingsford Smith, will put pressure on current curfew restrictions and will have a cumulative impact on the amenity of our residents.

Any proposal to vary the current curfew restrictions at Kingsford Smith needs to be rejected outright in the interests of our community.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Mayor write to Premier, the Hon. Mike Baird MP and the Member for Drummoyne, John Sidoti MP, seeking urgent clarification of the NSW Government's policy regarding any proposed changes to the curfew at Sydney Airport, and expressing profound concern at suggestions by the Deputy Premier that the NSW Government is seeking a reduction in the curfew.
2. THAT copies of correspondence to the Premier and the Member for Drummoyne be forwarded to the Member for Reid, Craig Laundry MP.

Attachments:

1. SMH Sydney Airport curfew article – 24 May 2014

smh.com.au

The Sydney Morning Herald

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Ease Sydney Airport curfew and add more flights, says NSW

Jamie Freed, Jacob Saulwick
Published: May 24, 2014 - 3:00AM

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Infrastructure and Regional Development Minister Warren Truss, however, immediately rejected the idea. "The government has no intention to change the 80 movement cap, the curfew or the protection of regional slots into Sydney Airport," a spokesman said.

The NSW government first started pushing for more flights at Sydney Airport in late 2012, when it opposed an airport at Badgerys Creek (an approach since changed).

Labor's Transport Spokesman, Anthony Albanese, said the government did not have a mandate to change cap and curfew laws at Mascot: "What's more, the constraints at Sydney Airport are both the land transport issues and the size of the airport."

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/ease-sydney-airport-curfew-and-add-more-flights-says-nsw-20140523-38udu.html>