

23 October 2024



Secretary,
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
ACT 2600

Via email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Support for the Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill 2024

Dear Secretary,

Freight & Trade Alliance (FTA) and the Australian Peak Shippers Association (APSA), as the industry peak body representing a broad membership of freight forwarding businesses, exporters, and importers, are writing to express support for the Sydney Airport Demand Management Amendment Bill 2024. FTA/APSA, alongside our members, recognise the critical need for these reforms to increase efficiency and capacity at Sydney Airport, particularly for air freight.

In a letter dated 6 April 2023 to the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia, FTA/APSA highlighted the importance of reforming Sydney Airport's demand management framework to create additional capacity for international air cargo. That letter, supported by major freight forwarding businesses and our members, emphasised the need for modernisation of the slot regime to unlock vital air freight capacity, which is transported predominantly in the belly of passenger planes. These same businesses, representing a significant portion of Australia's freight logistics sector, continue to support the reforms now encapsulated in the current Bill.

We recognise that this Bill represents the first significant reform in 27 years to Sydney Airport's demand management framework. The reforms announced by the Hon. Catherine King MP are both sensible and pragmatic, modernising the slot regime at Sydney Airport to deliver better outcomes for passengers and the freight sector, while aligning with global best practices.

Sydney Airport is pivotal to Australia's international trade, facilitating 45% of all air freight, valued at billions of dollars annually. The Bill's reforms, particularly the introduction of the Recovery Period, will provide essential flexibility by allowing Sydney Airport to temporarily increase movements during periods of disruption. This will not only benefit passengers by reducing cancellations but will also enable freight services to recover quickly, ensuring continuity in global supply chains and preventing costly delays for Australian businesses and our members.



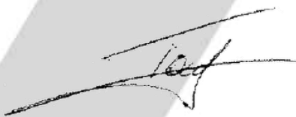
The proposed reforms are also crucial for enhancing competition and transparency in slot management. By aligning Sydney Airport's slot regime with global best practices, the Bill opens the door to improved access to slots for international carriers, which in turn will increase air freight capacity. This is particularly important as Australia's international freight task is set to grow significantly in the coming years. Ensuring sufficient air cargo capacity will be vital to maintaining our country's trade competitiveness.

Additionally, the reforms will promote a more transparent and equitable system, encouraging new entrants and fostering a competitive environment. This, combined with the ability to increase resilience in the face of disruptions, will maximise the efficiency of one of Australia's most important infrastructure assets.

We urge the Parliament to support and pass this Bill as soon as practicable, allowing the Australian freight and logistics sectors, along with our members, to fully benefit from these reforms. With the freight task expected to grow in both complexity and volume, ensuring Sydney Airport's capacity and efficiency will be vital to meeting national and international demand.

FTA/APSA remains committed to engaging with the government and industry stakeholders to support the swift passage of this Bill and the broader reforms necessary for Australia's future.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Jensen

Head of International Freight & Logistics

Freight & Trade Alliance (FTA) / Australian Peak Shippers Association (APSA)