

14 March 2008

The Hon. Kevin Rudd, MP
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Re: The development of Badgerys Creek as Sydney's second airport

The Urban Taskforce Australia represents Australia's most prominent property developers and equity financiers. Since 1999 the Urban Taskforce has been arguing for policies which support the growth of our cities and regions. Key to the growth of Sydney is a decision about Badgerys Creek airport. The case for an airport at Badgerys Creek is so overwhelming that it can no longer be ignored.

In 1999, the then Federal Government predicted that Sydney Airport was forecast to reach capacity in 2006 or 2007. The most comprehensive environmental assessment of any transport infrastructure proposal in Australian history showed that the airport could be built in-line with strict environmental safeguards. Yet, in 2005, the former Federal Government succumbed to political pressure and mothballed the project.

Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport, despite being Australia's busiest airport, is constrained by both its size and capacity. A cap of 80 scheduled aircraft movements each hour limits its ability to meet Sydney's needs as Australia's international gateway.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's latest report this week confirms that Sydney airport is experiencing greater average delays than other Australian airports. The report reveals that Sydney Airport's higher peak movement rates, terminal area constraints and the limitations imposed by noise sharing are contributing to higher delays.

The high peak demand has led to high charges – unfairly penalising discount airlines such as Virgin or Tiger Airways – whose competitive advantage comes from their lower price. There is also no opportunity for regional airlines to increase their access to Kingsford-Smith, because regional slots have been capped since the year 2000.

There is a rare alignment of the planets right now – the same party in government at a State and Federal level. Now is the time to decide to proceed with the second Sydney airport at Badgerys Creek and preserve Sydney's status as a world city and international gateway to Australia.

The necessary land remains in Commonwealth ownership. Earlier this month, the State Government announced funding and a timeline for a 13 kilometre railway link to Leppington. This is more than half of the necessary rail link to join a future Badgerys Creek airport to the Sydney rail system. The State Government should move now to reserve the remaining 11 kilometre stretch as a future rail corridor.

The Western Sydney Employment Lands Investigation Area is adjacent to the airport site. A second airport in the region will provide a major boost to job-generating industries."

Urban Taskforce Australia Ltd. ABN: 21 102 685 174 | GPO Box 5396 Sydney NSW 2001

T 612 9238 3955 | F 612 9222 9122 | Level 12, 32 Martin Place Sydney NSW | Level 6, 39 London Circuit, Canberra ACT

admin@urbantaskforce.com.au | www.urbantaskforce.com.au

I encourage your staff to contact me if the Taskforce can help advance the development of Badgerys Creek as a second Sydney airport.

Yours sincerely
Urban Taskforce Australia



Aaron Gadiel
Chief Executive Officer