



The Hon Darren Chester MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Deputy Leader of the House
Member for Gippsland

PDR ID: MS17-001124

15 JUL 2017

Ms Marion Charlton
Chief Operating Officer
Gold Coast Airport Pty Ltd
PO Box 112
COOLANGATTA QLD 4225

Dear Ms Charlton 

Thank you for submitting the 2017 Gold Coast Airport draft Master Plan (the Master Plan) for my consideration.

I am pleased to advise I have approved the Master Plan in accordance with section 81 of the *Airports Act 1996* (the *Airports Act*). I am satisfied the Master Plan adequately provides for growth in passenger traffic while also meeting the needs of other users and potential users of the airport site.

I acknowledge the important contribution of Gold Coast Airport (the Airport) to the communities of the Gold Coast, and in particular, many of the regional centres in South East Queensland and North East New South Wales. I also note the Airport's economic contribution and the creation of jobs as a result of current and planned activities.

I note the Master Plan includes significant aviation related development over the planning period including terminal and apron redevelopment, expansion of taxiways and aprons, installation of approach lighting and relocation of the landing threshold on Runway 32 to accommodate forecast growth in passenger numbers.

I understand that consultation on the Master Plan generated considerable public interest and comment about the impacts of growth of the airport, particularly relating to aircraft noise. I expect your continued focus on ensuring ongoing community engagement as Gold Coast Airport grows into the future.

I also note the Airport's ongoing commitment to engage through the Gold Coast Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) and the Airport Noise Abatement Consultative Committee (ANACC). The CACG and ANACC are important forums that provide an opportunity for discussion between the airport, all relevant stakeholders and the community.

The Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE) has reiterated that any works on airports must consider the likely impacts on the environment under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) Act.

In making my decision, I considered the views of Airservices Australia (Airservices) and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). Both agencies have expressed concern that sight lines from the Control Tower to the proposed southern apron area may be hindered by the existing terminal building, and reiterated the need for consultation early in the development process.

I expect the Airport to work closely and engage early with Airservices, CASA and other relevant federal agencies on all future projects.

It is also my expectation that security, as a key strategic feature, is considered during the planning period of the Master Plan. Should the proposed developments proceed, these may cause changes to the Airport's local security risk context. If this occurs, you will be required to revisit the Airport's Transport Security Programme.

Publication of the final Master Plan is required within 50 business days of my approval as per section 86 of the Act. I understand the Airport has made commitments to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development to incorporate minor administrative changes into the final Master Plan before it is published. As such, I ask that a copy of the final Master Plan incorporating these amendments be provided to the Department for clearance prior to its publication.

The relevant contact officer in the Department is Ms Helen Gannon, Director, Queensland and Northern Territory Section, who can be contacted at Helen.Gannon@infrastructure.gov.au or on 02 6274 6972.

I wish you and your team well in the future development of the Airport.

Yours sincerely



DARREN CHESTER