



9 April 2020

The Hon. Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

Leader of The Nationals

Federal Member for Riverina

by email: michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

AIRPORT COORDINATION AUSTRALIA CHARGES

As both the RAAA Chairman and as a board member of Airport Coordination Australia (ACA) I am writing to ask if the Government would consider incorporating ACA charges into the \$715m Airline Financial Relief Measures scheme.

ACA was formed in 1997 and was appointed by the then Minister of Transport and Regional Development to allocate slots for all aircraft runway movements at Sydney Airport as necessitated by the Sydney Airport Demand Management Act [1997]. Since then it has grown beyond its original purpose to manage slots at 8 Australian airports plus airports in the Philippines, Ireland, Papua New Guinea and Saudi Arabia. It is now widely recognised by the world industry as the pre-eminent supplier of airport coordination services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen ACA's overseas revenue dry up with the virtual cessation of international aircraft movements worldwide. It has also seen slot activity greatly diminish in Australia and while it is entitled to charge Australian airlines for unused slots it is reluctant to do so under the current conditions as it is seen as an unfair impost on domestic and regional carriers. Equally the airlines would be understandably reluctant to pay for these services under the current conditions.

Quarterly income in Australia for ACA slot fees is approximately \$265,000 and I am wondering if the Government would consider a reimbursement of ACA fees during the current emergency under the \$715m Airline Financial Relief Measures Scheme in the same spirit as it made refunds available for Airservices Australia charges. As well as providing relief to the airlines it would enable ACA to keep operating and providing essential services. Once the current emergency is over we will need ACA to coordinate the recovery process at Australian airports and I also believe it is an Australian asset worth keeping.

Apart from administering slots (required in Sydney under the Act) ACA also provides essential data for the operation of airports including customs, border force and the fuel companies. I think it is essential that ACA keep operating but I also don't think it is appropriate that they charge the airlines for slots during the current emergency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Jim Davis
Chairman

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