The Hon Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I refer to your letter to the former Premier concerning the draft Queanbeyan City Council Local Environmental Plan (South Tralee) 2010 (the draft LEP). I write to advise you on my current consideration of the draft LEP and to seek from you a clear timetable for the completion of various actions associated with the National Aviation Policy.

The draft LEP for South Tralee will allow an important land release for the Queanbeyan area to proceed and will assist in facilitating other important employment land rezonings in South Jerrabomberra, namely North Tralee and the Poplars. The release of new land for housing and employment is necessary to meet the strong demand occurring in the NSW-ACT Cross Border region and will help to address the previously unheralded decline in housing affordability.

However, I have also considered very carefully the concerns you and Mr Mrdak have raised in relation to the need to delay a decision on the draft LEP until the Commonwealth has resolved key elements of the National Aviation Policy. This particularly relates to the National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) principles for land use planning and the Joint Study into Additional Aviation Capacity for the Sydney Region.

I have received advice from the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) that the draft LEP, although more than compliant with the NSW statutory requirements for development near airports, should be deferred until these key National Aviation Policy commitments are complete. The PAC noted that even though the draft LEP took a more conservative approach to the issue of aircraft noise, the issues raised by the Commonwealth were of sufficient concern the draft LEP should be deferred.

The NSW Government is committed to rebuilding the economy of NSW, as well as working with local communities to restore planning powers and authority. On this basis I note the draft LEP is strongly supported by the local community and will provide for a significant investment in the Queanbeyan region. However, in the spirit of co-operation I am prepared to postpone a decision on the draft LEP so the work of NASAG and the Joint Study can be completed.

So this important future investment for the Queanbeyan region is not lost, I seek your urgent advice on the expected timeframes for the completion of both the NASAG principles and the Joint Study. This will enable me to re-assure both Council and the community that progress is being maintained. Your advice is requested within the next six weeks.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]  

Perhaps we could arrange a meeting to discuss the issues?

HON BRAD HAZZARD MP  
Minister