



Mayor and Councillors
Woollahra Council

7 April 2021

Dear Mayor and Councillors

I am writing to you about two important issues regarding Sydney Airport.

[East-west runway reopening in mid-April](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic delivered a crisis of unprecedented magnitude to the global aviation industry.

Sydney Airport has been on the frontline, making 2020 the most challenging year in the airport's history.

The number of domestic and international flights fell sharply throughout 2020, the latter by as much as 98 percent when compared to 2019.

With so few aircraft in the air, Sydney Airport also closed its east-west runway in March 2020 so airlines could securely park their grounded aircraft. So, for the last year, there have been no aircraft landing on or taking off from that runway.

We are now starting to see aviation recover.

Recovery in aviation is good news for the local and NSW economy because, prior to the pandemic, Sydney Airport generated or facilitated \$42 billion in economic activity, equivalent to 6.7 percent of the NSW economy. The airport also generated or facilitated 336,400 full-time jobs across the nation, around 33,000 of which were on the airport itself and predominantly benefitted people who live close to the airport.

With the number of flights to and from Sydney gradually increasing, **we aim to reopen the east-west runway from mid-April.**

This means people living in areas to the east and west of the airport may notice aircraft flying overhead again. There will be no change to the airport curfew.

While we can't yet say how soon the number of flights will return to pre-pandemic levels, we know there is strong pent-up demand for domestic air travel, which we've seen each time state borders open. International travel will likely follow a similar albeit later path, with travellers keen to re-establish connections with family, friends and business partners. The recent announcement concerning travel to and from New Zealand is an encouraging development.

Sydney Airport

Essential runway safety project to begin in mid-June

From mid-June, Sydney Airport will begin reconstructing the concrete threshold at the northern end of the main north-south runway.

Carrying out this essential runway safety project means there will be an unavoidable (but limited) impact on some flights to and from Sydney Airport for the expected five month duration of the project.

Attachment A to this letter shows the flight paths to and from Sydney Airport used by jet aircraft.

The key change will be that the flight path used by aircraft landing on the main north-south runway from the north (i.e. the runway 16R arrival flight path) will, for worker safety reasons, *not* be used during the life of the project. This in turn means there will be a temporary increase in the number of flights on Sydney Airport's other flight paths, including those arriving on runway 16L or departing from runways 34L and 34R.

I will write to you again closer to the start date for this project to provide more detailed information about those areas likely to be affected.

Next steps

I have attached **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers** for each of these issues.

We will also be distributing a community notice to households directly affected by the flight paths to and from the east-west runway, including the following suburbs:

- Banksia, Kyeemagh, Rockdale and Bexley to the west of the airport
- Mascot, Pagewood, Eastlakes, Daceyville, Kingsford, Randwick, Coogee and South Coogee to the east of the airport

People living in other suburbs may also notice flights using the east west runway.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on:

Phone: (02) 9667 6182

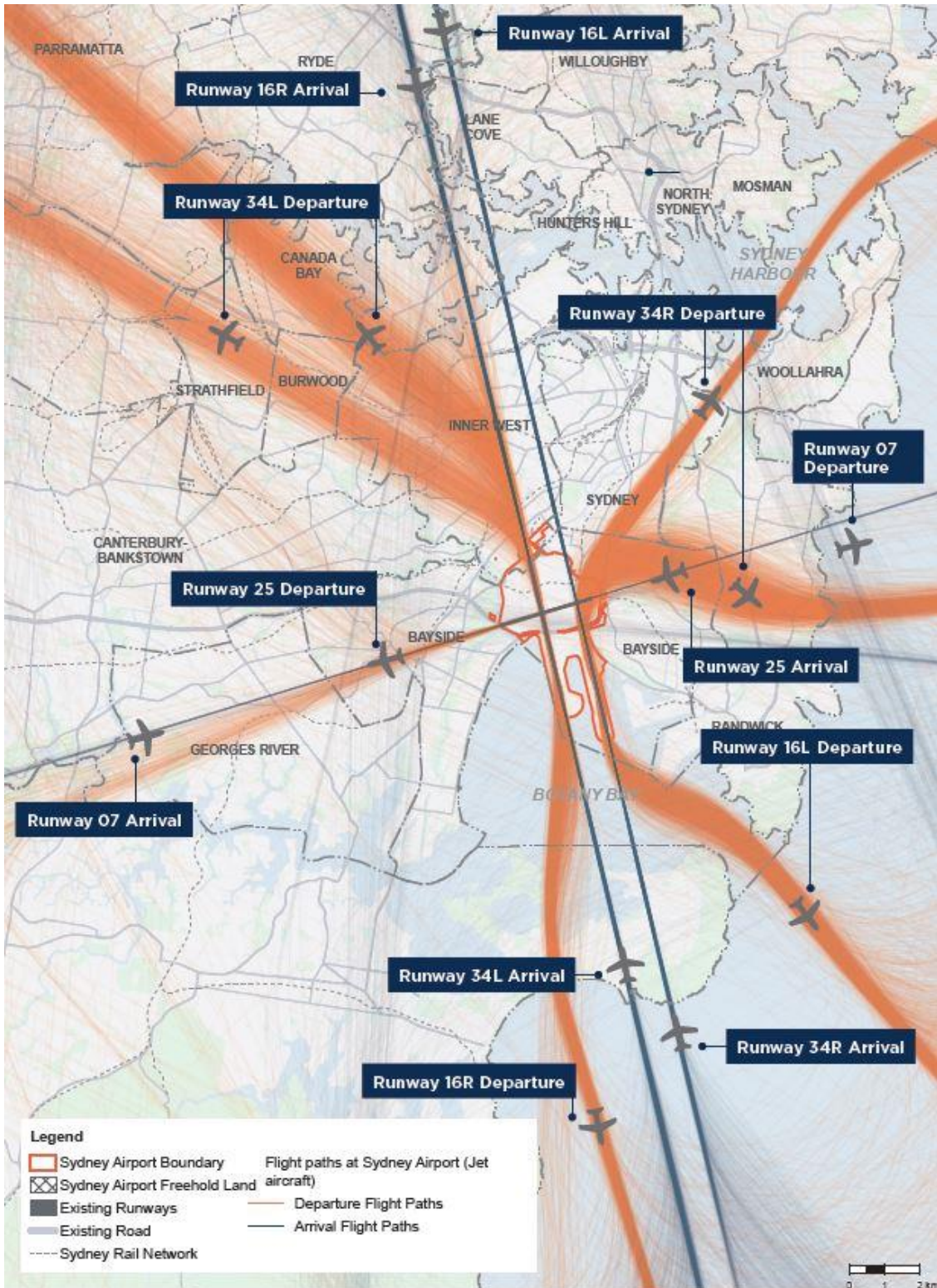
Email: runwaysafety@syd.com.au

Yours sincerely



Ted Plummer
Special Adviser Government and Community Relations

Flight paths to and from Sydney Airport used by jet aircraft



Sydney Airport