

Friday, 20 December 2024

Dear Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts,

Re: Aeronautical Information Publication Flight Priorities review

The Committee for Sydney thanks you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Aeronautical Information Publication Flight Priorities review. We support the sensible and practical draft amendments to the AIP.

The Committee for Sydney is an urban policy think tank. We are advocates for the whole of Sydney, focused on developing solutions to the most important problems we face. We are proud to have over 160 members that represent key business, academic and civic organisations across Sydney.

Why the draft changes should be adopted

- **Operational efficiency for airlines and airports** – the draft changes to section 6.2 are simple and sensible. Prioritising approaching flights that are able to land successfully, over those that may not be able to due to weather conditions, will improve operational efficiency. Likewise, we strongly support the draft change to prioritise long-haul flights from the Americas and Europe when holding exceeds 10 minutes. This is critical to avoid diversions that are costly for the airline and annoying and inconvenient for passengers.
- **Avoid costly diversions for airlines** – under the current AIP, long-haul international flights are required to join a landing queue alongside short-haul flights. Long-haul flights typically do not have enough fuel for extensive holding. This means that when there are delays, the only way long-haul flights can get priority to land is to declare mayday or divert to another airport. More often than not, the flight will divert given the seriousness of mayday. Such diversions are incredibly costly as they can cause serious disruption to future scheduled flights and require extra means to get passengers to their planned destination. To ensure international airlines remain attracted to the Australian market, we need to do our best to ensure operational efficiency for airlines.
- **Positive experience for passengers** – the draft changes to the AIP will help avoid the rare instances where planes may make an unsuccessful attempt to land, divert to another airport, or declare mayday. All of these have a negative impact on the experience of passengers, which can influence their experience of certain airlines, or Australia. The draft changes present simple and sensible amendments to reduce the likelihood of these events.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these draft changes to the AIP.