

## Important next step on Sydney slot reform

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has welcomed today's announcement of a competitive tender process to appoint a new manager of Sydney Airport's slots.

By moving this process forward, the Albanese Government is ensuring the demand management scheme can allow for increased competition between airlines and better availability of slots.

These reforms, first announced in February, are necessary to keep delivering greater outcomes for Australian passengers.

Removing barriers to new entrants in the market is a high priority to improve competition, as we've seen with the difficulties Rex Airlines had with accessing slots at Sydney Airport.

AAA research showed Rex was gaining a foothold in the golden triangle, with a 31% increase of seats sold in that market between 2022 and 2023.

"We look forward to working with Minister King on delivering these important changes," AAA Head of Policy and Advocacy Natalie Heazlewood said.

"Sydney Airport plays a crucial role in connecting communities and enabling economic activity and these improvements will only enhance that capacity.

"Increasing transparency and compliance, including dealing with any potential conflict of interest in slot allocation, should boost competition and ultimately benefits consumers.

"We've lost two airlines to financial collapse from the domestic sector in just three months, a clear sign we need to urgently take a different course and strengthen competitiveness in Australian aviation."

"The AAA hopes the government moves swiftly to bring this legislation to Parliament, while we also look forward to strong recommendations in the upcoming Aviation White Paper."

The AAA is the national voice for airports, representing the interests of more than 340 airports and aerodromes across Australia. It also represents more than 150 corporate members supplying products and services to airports and the wider aviation industry.

Ends.

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