

Sydney slot reform legislation lands in Parliament

Legislation introduced by the Albanese Government to reform Sydney Airport's slots will create a more balanced system and help drive competition in the domestic airline market.

These reforms are vital to improving outcomes for Australian passengers, who this year have already seen the financial collapse of two airlines in a highly concentrated sector.

Removing barriers to new entrants in the airline sector will ultimately assist in bringing down airfares, as was seen with the addition of Rex and Bonza on many intercity routes.

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) welcomes tougher compliance measures to ensure slots are not misused by airlines and the management scheme allows for fair access.

The ability for Sydney Airport to better manage recovery from severe weather or unexpected outages will also improve efficiency and reduce delays or cancellations.

Easier access to Sydney slots for NSW regional airlines could also result in more connectivity for communities, many already anxious about Rex's future.

"The current slots system has provided an unfair advantage for the airline duopoly at Sydney Airport, so these reforms are going to help level the playing field," the AAA's Head of Policy and Advocacy Natalie Heazlewood said.

"The AAA commends the government for introducing the first reforms in 27 years to the rules that determine how Sydney Airport is run.

"We hope to see them move as quickly as possible through Parliament so reforms can be enacted. Every day these changes are delayed is another day of constrained operations at Australia's biggest airport, a key link for the domestic aviation network.

"We urge the government and opposition to work together on this much-needed legislation to ensure Australian passengers aren't disadvantaged unnecessarily."

Ends.

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