

10 October 2023

The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board – matters raised by representatives outside the scope of the Terms of Reference

I am writing as Chair and on behalf of the Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB). As you are aware, the AAB is an independent community consultation body established to facilitate information and advice to and from the community on the implementation of changes identified in the Post Implementation Review of Brisbane Airspace and proposed changes to flight paths and airspace through the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane.

The AAB has met three times since its establishment in March 2023. In each of these meetings, the community, through the AAB members, has raised concerns on a number of issues that fall outside the scope of the AAB's responsibilities as set out in the Terms of Reference.

Issues that have been raised by community members are:

- concerns about the health and social impacts of aircraft noise on residents;
- compensation for residents impacted by aircraft noise;
- concerns about contact handling processes within Airservices Australia's Noise Complaints and Information Service (NCIS) and what action is taken by the NCIS on complaints; and
- concerns about growth in aviation activity without protection of surrounding community interests.

While these issues cannot be addressed through the AAB, they are a cause of significant concern to the community. I seek to draw these important issues to your attention and request that they are considered through the appropriate channels.

In addition, community members have expressed concerns that the time commitment associated with AAB membership is higher than originally anticipated. I note, for example, that Airservices Australia has offered AAB community members multiple opportunities to attend deep dive sessions on the Noise Action Plan, which have been held outside AAB meetings. As a result, AAB members have formally requested that they be remunerated for their time by the Australian Government.

I thank you for your consideration of these matters. If possible, a response by the next AAB meeting, scheduled for 22 November 2023, would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Ron Brent
Chair
Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board



The Hon Catherine King MP

**Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat**

Ref: MS23-004665

Mr Ron Brent
Chair
Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board

via: AAB.Secretariat@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear ~~Mr Brent~~, *Ron,*

Thank you for your letter of 10 October 2023 providing an update on the activities of the Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB) and matters raised by representatives that fall outside the scope of the Terms of Reference (ToR).

Managing the impact of aircraft operations on communities around airports is a challenging issue and I acknowledge that some residents of Brisbane are concerned about aircraft noise. The Australian Government recognises the need to balance the impacts of noise on communities near airports with a strong aviation industry that can meet demand for movement of passengers, workers and high-value, time sensitive freight.

Significant work and ongoing community consultation are underway to improve aircraft noise outcomes for Brisbane communities. However, in major Australian cities such as Brisbane, some level of aircraft noise is unavoidable. It is not possible for aircraft to avoid flying over residential areas altogether, nor can any particular area or community expect to have zero aircraft operations overhead at all times.

The AAB was established by the Government to better facilitate engagement and sharing of information with the community on this challenging issue, with a particular focus on improving aircraft noise outcomes through the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane.

Reflecting this, the ToR for the AAB were designed to focus on feasible improvements to airspace operations and noise mitigation opportunities that can be implemented now and in the future. My expectation is that the AAB is forward focussed, engaging constructively with industry and government advisors supporting the work of the Board on the Noise Action Plan.

The issues included in your letter that are not related to the Noise Action Plan and, therefore outside the scope of the ToR, may be able to be discussed in other engagement forums, such as the Brisbane Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group.

AAB community members may also be interested in contributing to the Aviation White Paper, which is considering long term policy options on issues such as airport planning and better mechanisms to consult and engage on the impact of aviation on communities, including noise. Consultation on the Aviation Green Paper - which will inform the development of the Aviation White Paper - closes on 30 November 2023. Further details on providing feedback on the Aviation Green Paper is available at www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/aviation-green-paper.

I note that your letter includes a request from community members for financial remuneration for their participation in the AAB. The Government values the important contribution community members make in consultation groups across Australia on a wide range of issues. However, the Government does not financially compensate community members in these voluntary positions.

Going forward, I would appreciate your guidance of the AAB to focus on future operational improvements and subsequent noise mitigation outcomes that can be delivered through the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane. This focus is the mostly likely to improve the efficiency of the group and reduce the time commitment requested of community members to more manageable levels.

With that in mind, I would appreciate the AAB's advice as to whether SODPROPs should be designated as the preferred operating mode at Brisbane Airport, when weather, safety and traffic levels allow, and whether I should issue a directive to Airservices to that effect.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this matter and for the continued engagement of the members of the AAB.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catherine King', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Catherine King MP

27/10/2023