

Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB)

Meeting Minutes

Date	Location
06 March 2024	Brisbane Airport Conference Centre—Pullman Hotel, Domestic Terminal

Meeting title	Start time	End time
Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board Meeting 4	15:30 AEST	17:45 AEST

Refer to Attachment A within this document for attendees and apologies.

Minutes

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair opened the meeting at 15:30 and welcomed community members, industry advisors and guests to the AAB meeting. The Chair noted the apologies of Sandra Bell and Stephanie Werner and acknowledged Megan Thomas as the department's representative for the meeting.

The Chair acknowledged the traditional Custodians of the land from which those in person were meeting on, the Turrbal people, and the traditional Custodians of the land on which all attendees were joining from, and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Agenda Item 2: Administration and action items

Acceptance of agenda and previous minutes

The Chair noted that the minutes of the previous meeting which occurred on 22 November 2023 were accepted out of session.

The agenda for the meeting was noted and presenters were asked to move through their agenda items quickly so that all items could be covered within the allotted time.

Action Items list

The Action Items list is at Attachment B.

The Chair ran through the action item list and noted items that could be closed off. **Action Items 2.14** and **2B.2** are not to be closed as further conversations need to occur between the Chair and the Industry representatives.

Action Items that Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) and Airservices Australia (Airservices) have responsibility for were noted to be addressed today at *agenda items 4 and 5*.

Agenda Item 3: Community member issues

Mr Muller's submission

Development and assessment of flight path options

Mr Muller expressed the view that the AAB had not been upholding its responsibility under the Terms of Reference to *“provide constructive and practical input for feasible options to maintain or improve consistency of airspace operations with the plan, as well as potential and possible airspace improvement measures and noise abatement procedures.”*

Complaints had been received by Mr Muller from the Redlands community that some options proposed under the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane (the Noise Action Plan) would increase noise over his community rather than reduce it.

Mr Muller expressed concerns on a number of points in the *Noise Action Plan for Brisbane Phase 1 Options Assessment Report*. This included inconsistencies with data, misleading colour coding where changes will impact the community, a lack of clarity or explanation where conflicts occur, and a lack of context where statements have been made on options.

Airservices representatives noted that there appeared to be some data transmission errors in the document and the comments are not verbatim to what was said during feedback. Airservices also advised these documents were put out for a four week public review period and that feedback of this nature was welcome and appreciated. Airservices noted they will update the documents and take this into consideration for future reporting.

Mr Muller will submit a paper to the Secretariat with questions he would like passed onto Airservices for a response.

Discussion of an often used flight path that is not a current or historic option

Refer to Attachment C1.

Mr Muller advised that he had multiple screenshots of a flight path which goes directly over densely populated areas but had not been used historically or proposed as a future option. It was noted that there was a better flight path to the immediate south which should continue to be used.

Mr Muller advised he would be submitting further questions to the Secretariat to pass onto Airservices for written response.

Mr Curran noted where deviations occur off flight paths, the majority of the time it is due to weather or traffic reasons and Airservices would be happy to provide further information on this.

In response:

- Mr Muller advised that the community believes flight tracking is being shortened to conserve fuel.

Mr Diamond's submission

Refer to Attachment C2.

Mr Diamond advocated that his community does not feel that there has been recognition of the noise problem faced by them which has led to a decline in their lifestyles. It was noted that there are other airports that provide information to the community on the types of aircraft landing and departing from the airport and the reported noise generated from the aircraft, however Brisbane Airport does not provide this information.

Mr Diamond proposed that in the absence of self regulation, the AAB submit a recommendation to the Minister to issue a directive for the introduction of noise-based fees at Brisbane Airport.

In response:

- Ms Thomas welcomed any action BAC could take to help mitigate aircraft noise impacts, including noise-based airport fees. However, it was noted that the Minister's power to issue a Ministerial directive is not unlimited and the department is unable to provide advice at this time as to whether the Minister has the ability to impose noise-based fees on Brisbane Airport or something to a similar effect.
- Mr McCutcheon enquired as to whether the noise-based fee would be based on a specific type of aircraft or ICAO standard. He suggested that these issues and the structure of such fees would need to be clarified before the idea could be progressed. It would also be important to establish where the revenue will be directed. It was noted that further research should be done on airports with noise-based fees such as Heathrow Airport to determine whether the fees imposed have changed aircraft noise outcomes over time.
- The Chair agreed with the points raised and noted the AAB is not the correct forum to determine the answers to these questions.

With agreement from the Community members, the Chair advised that he will write to the Minister on behalf of the AAB with a request for the Minister to raise the introduction of noise-based levies with Airport Lessee Companies for their consideration.

Ms Bignell's submission

Refer to Attachment C3.

The Chair noted that Ms Bignell had received answers to her questions on notice and asked her to present on her agenda item.

Ms Bignell noted the London City Airport Noise Action Plan (LCANAP) had been tabled as a meeting paper for discussion. It was stated that the LCANAP contained numerous checks and balances for the community which if applied to the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane would help resolve the issues that the AAB was established to address. This includes a ranked scale of noise annoyance and an insulation tier scheme for affected homes.

Mr Curran concurred that the LCANAP was a good example of how airports around the world have implemented measures to mitigate the effect of noise on the community. It was highlighted however that the LCANAP was specific to measures implemented by the airport while the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane was specific to changes in flight paths as a result of the new parallel runway.

Mr Curran further noted that the LCANAP provides a good opportunity to work with BAC on how to improve outcomes for the community, especially in clarifying the different roles that industry plays in addressing noise impacts from aircraft.

Ms Marshall added that Airservices has produced a document called *'Our Commitment to Aircraft Noise Management'* which further explains the roles and levers of industry which may assist the community's understanding.

Mr Boyle noted that the United Kingdom and Australia operate in different legislative environments with higher environmental regulations placed on airports in the United Kingdom.

In response:

- Ms Bignell pointed out that airports are able to add protections for the community even if there is no legislative requirement to do so.

Ms Bignell also advised that the community has expressed confusion as to why it takes 12-18 months to implement changes to flight paths.

The Chair noted that in his previous experience, the more the community understands about the noise, the less it annoys them. The Chair advised that he will ask Airservices and BAC to review the LCNAP for opportunities to improve handling of noise issues, especially to look for opportunities to improve their relationship with the community in explaining noise.

The Chair thanked members for their contributions and remarked that community member issues would be the first item on future agendas moving forward.

ACTIONS

1. Mr Muller to provide questions for Airservices to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will pass on to Airservices for written response.
2. The Chair to write to the Minister on behalf of AAB Community members with a recommendation to raise the introduction of noise-based fees with Airport Lessee Companies for their consideration.
3. Airservices and BAC to review the LCNAP for opportunities to improve their relationship with the community in explaining noise.

Agenda Item 4: BAC Legacy Runway works program

Mr Boyle advised members of upcoming maintenance works on the legacy runway.

The AAB's views were sought on how to best communicate the upcoming runway works to the community.

In response:

- The Chair asked that any visuals provided to the community should be to scale (especially those showing the changed height of aircraft approaching a displaced threshold) and the before and after images should be overlaid to clearly demonstrate changes.
- Mr Diamond suggested that letterbox drops should occur to residences affected by changes to operations during maintenance as this is the most effective way to advertise the upcoming maintenance.
- Ms Bignell suggested usual means of communication. However, given that night arrivals use NPR flight paths until legacy runway alignment and night departures use legacy runway alignment then move to NPR flight paths, it would be prudent to undertake letterbox drops for communities along the NPR alignment including a cross section appropriate to noise affected communities.

The Chair requested any further suggestions be provided to BAC via the Secretariat.

ACTIONS:

4. Community members to submit any further suggestions on BAC's Legacy Runway works program to the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5: Airservices update

Ms Marshall provided an update on open action items attributed to Airservices and asked the Secretariat to provide the newly proposed dates for the rescheduled Air Traffic Control visit for AAB Community members as per **Action Item 2.6**.

Ms Bignell enquired as to why a particular go-around had deviated from its flight path to fly over the Samford Valley before resuming its approach to Brisbane Airport.

In response:

- The Chair asked Ms Bignell to provide the specific flight number to Airservices via the Secretariat for investigation.

In relation to **Action Item 3.7**, Ms Marshall advised that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau provides information on fuel dumping on their website.

Mr McCutcheon added that when fuel is dumped over the ocean, it is released at an altitude where the fuel vaporises before it can reach the surface.

Ms Marshall advised that the Phase 2 Options Assessment Report would be released shortly. Engagement on the Package 2 preferred design options consultation would also occur in April-May this year. Packages 3 and 4 will be led by Trax International and engagement will occur later in the year.

Ms Marshall advised that a lot of feedback had been received during Phase 2 consultation on how to better present information to the community. It was noted that 70% of those who provided feedback stated that existing reporting did not meet their needs. Airservices is working to improve Webtrak to be able to provide immediate tracking data and had already improved the noise tracking delay to 10 minutes.

It was noted that an audit is being undertaken across all Airservices platforms to improve accessibility and the quality of information provided, including the possibility of including the live tracking of aircraft over the published flightpaths. Public reporting on the percentage and times of SODPROPS use is also in development. Most of these initiatives are proposed to be implemented by the middle of the year and the AAB will be given an update on progress at the next meeting.

The AAB was advised that a SODPROPS operating plan has been created to support implementation of recommendation 2.1 of the Noise Action Plan. It identifies changes at Archerfield Airport and Department of Defence RAAF Base Amberley, along with changes to over water flight paths, and training of Air Traffic Controllers as some of the actions required to increase the operation of SODPROPS. The aim is that by the end of the year SODPROPS will be the preferred operating mode 24/7 at Brisbane Airport, subject to weather and operating conditions.

Mr Curran provided the caveat that SODPROPS would still be restricted to non-peak periods and subject to weather and operational conditions. It was highlighted that the Environmental Impact Statement for the new parallel runway also states that the use of SODPROPS will be much lower into the future due to increased traffic levels.

Ms Bignell asked for clarification as to whether traffic constraints on SODPROPS referred to runway or airspace traffic levels and whether traffic outside the airport affected the use of SODPROPS.

In response:

- Mr Curran advised that it refers to both. SODPROPS can't be used in high demand periods as it is a low capacity mode and may cause delays. If the immediate future demand on the airport is less than 20 movements then SODPROPS may be used but it takes time to move in and out of the mode. Airservices is looking for measures that can support remaining in SODPROPS mode for longer. Options will be investigated on how to communicate expected traffic movements to the community.

Mr Diamond noted that any communications on 24/7 use of SODPROPS will need to demonstrate very clearly what the actual effect will be. It is important to manage community expectations as SODPROPS will be unable to be used most of the time.

In response:

- Ms Marshall advised that once the operating conditions had been finalised, Airservices will present them to the AAB and then to the community.

Ms Stewart asked if the feedback from less vocal communities such as hers was taken on board during the consideration of flight path options that progress to the preferred design stage.

In response:

- Ms Marshall confirmed that community consultation was not a voting process and that a wide range of factors are considered in determining which options progress and which do not. Every option that progresses to the detailed design stage undergoes a second round of community consultation and receives a detailed environmental assessment.

Ms Bignell enquired as to what happens if an environmental assessment triggers a provision under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

In response:

- Ms Marshall advised that a referral would be made to the Commonwealth Environment Minister. Airservices will be publishing the Environmental Assessments so communities are able to see how it was assessed. It was noted that where flight paths are proposed over identified sites of Indigenous significance where noise is assessed as potentially affecting these sites, the traditional owners will be consulted.
- Ms Marshall added that where flight paths are proposed over areas with low ambient noise, the intention is to increase the height at which aircraft travel along these flight paths, where possible, so as not to adversely impact areas with lower populations.

Ms Bignell questioned the 2018 Environmental Assessment report date and why it was completed later than the Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) submitted to CASA for approval.

In response:

- Ms Marshall advised that the Environmental Assessment work had been completed in advance of the finalising the ACP to CASA, as is the requirement. The assessments take many weeks and months to complete and then go through an internal review and publishing process, which includes sign-off at several levels within the organisation prior to formal publication. The date on the EIA is the final publishing date and not the assessment completion date.

Ms Bignell enquired as to whether any further consultation had occurred with the Department of Defence regarding overlapping flight paths with RAAF Base Amberley.

In response:

- Ms Marshall advised discussions had occurred with Air Force personnel and responses from the discussion were expected shortly.

Ms Stewart asked if it would be possible to receive a map with all preferred flight path options overlaid on a single map.

In response:

- Ms Marshall advised that this was something Airservices will take on board for preferred options consultation.

ACTIONS:

5. Ms Bignell to provide data to Airservices via the Secretariat for investigation on a recent flight that made a go-around over the Samford Valley.

6. Airservices to provide Noise Action Plan for Brisbane update slides to the AAB members, noting these are not for public distribution or sharing at this time.
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Agenda Item 6: Other Business

Noting the success of the new agenda process, the Chair advised members that a call for agenda items would occur again ahead of the next meeting and community member issues would again occur at the start of the meeting.

The Chair suggested that the next AAB meeting occur later in the year in Q3 (perhaps July). Consultation will occur out session to determine a final date.

Members agreed.

Mr Diamond queried as to whether any progress had occurred for **Action Item 3.8** on the development of metrics for the Noise Action Plan.

In response:

- The Chair advised this will be progressed in the background and updates will be provided to the AAB as they arise.

The Chair thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting at 17:45.

Attachment A – Attendees

Name	Position
Ron Brent	Chair – Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB)
Tess Bignell	AAB Community Representative
Stephen Muller	AAB Community Representative
Kirsten Stewart	AAB Community Representative (<i>online</i>)
David Diamond	AAB Community Representative
Peter Curran	Airservices Australia – Chief Customer and External Relations Officer
Donna Marshall	Airservices Australia – Head of Community Engagement (<i>Guest</i>)
Andrea Lomax	Airservices Australia – Community Engagement Advisor (<i>Guest</i>)
Tim Boyle	Brisbane Airport Corporation – Program Manager Future Airspace Strategy (<i>online</i>)
Dave McCutcheon	Qantas Group – Senior Manager Flying Operations, Jetstar (<i>online</i>)
Mike Healy	Virgin Australia – Fleet Manager (<i>online</i>)
Megan Thomas	A/g Assistant Secretary, Airports Branch Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
	Secretariat Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

APOLOGIES

Name	Position
Sandra Bell	Community Representative
Stephanie Werner	First Assistant Secretary, Domestic Aviation and Reform Division Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Attachment B

Open Action Items

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Person	Completion Date	Status/Outcome
1.11	18 May 2023	Data on aircraft movements	AAB to work with Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) and Airservices on how to better provide information and data on expected aircraft movements, and previous and proposed impacts.	BAC Airservices Australia		Update provided by BAC at Meeting #2B. Data to be released as a priority. Data to be added to baseline model.
2.6	19 July 2023	ATC meeting with AAB members	Airservices to organise a session with an Air Traffic Controller to discuss operations with AAB members in the context of opportunities to improve noise outcomes. Airservices to undertake a process to examine Air Traffic Control tower operations to determine whether opportunity exists to improve practice.	Airservices Australia Secretariat		Update provided at Meeting #4. Secretariat to send out proposed dates to Community members.
2.14	19 July 2023	Out of Session NCIS meeting	Secretariat to organise an out of session meeting between the Chair and Airservices to discuss the NCIS complaints reporting.	Secretariat Chair Airservices Australia		Discussions between Chair and Airservices ongoing. NCIS reporting discussed at Meeting #2B.
2B.2	18 September 2023	Issues Register	The Secretariat and the Chair will develop an Issues Register for items the AAB is unable to progress. Items on the Issues Register shall be referred to the appropriate forums for action.	Secretariat Chair		AAB Chair to write to BACACG Chair. Further conversations to occur with Industry.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Person	Completion Date	Status/Outcome
3.4	22 November 2023	Independent assurance	Community members to submit suggestions to the Secretariat on what they would like Airservices' independent technical advisor to investigate for quality assurance.	Community members Secretariat		Community members to send suggestions to the Secretariat.
3.8	22 November 2023	Noise Action Plan metrics	Industry representatives to update the AAB on any progress to develop metrics under the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane.	Airservices Australia BAC		Ongoing work progressing.
4.1	6 March 2024	Phase 1 Options Assessment Report Questions	Mr Muller to provide questions for Airservices' written response via the Secretariat.	Mr Muller Secretariat Airservices Australia		New item.
4.2	6 March 2024	AAB recommendation for noise-based fees	The Chair to write to the Minister on behalf of the AAB Community members with a recommendation to raise the introduction of noise-based fees with Airport Lessee Companies for their consideration.	Chair		New item.
4.3	6 March 2024	LCANAP review	Industry representatives to review the London City Airport Noise Action Plan for opportunities to improve their relationship with the community in explaining noise.	BAC Airservices Australia		New item.
4.4	6 March 2024	BAC Legacy Runway works program	Community members to submit any further suggestions on BAC's Legacy Runway works program to the Secretariat.	Community members Secretariat		New item.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Person	Completion Date	Status/Outcome
4.5	6 March 2024	Samford Valley go-around investigation	Ms Bignell to provide data to Airservices via the Secretariat for investigation on a recent flight that made a go-around over the Samford Valley.	Ms Bignell Airservices Australia Secretariat		New item.
4.6	6 March 2024	Noise Action Plan update slides	Airservices to provide Noise Action Plan for Brisbane update slides to AAB members, with a request for feedback on the proposed outcomes of Phase 2 options assessment.	Airservices Australia Secretariat		New item.

Closed Action Items

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Person	Completion Date	Status
1.9	18 May 2023	Airline modernisation	Chair to work with Qantas Group representative on what information can be provided to the community on Jetstar fleet modernisation.	Chair Qantas Group representative Secretariat	4 January 2024	Letter Circulated to AAB members on 4 January 2024.
3.1	22 November 2023	Recording of meetings	The Chair to investigate options to record meetings with the Secretariat to assist in the preparation of the minutes.	Chair Secretariat	6 March 2024	Meetings not to be recorded due to departmental record-keeping policies.
3.2	22 November 2023	SODPROPS advice letter	The Chair to write a letter to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government advising of AAB's views on the use of SODPROPS as the preferred operating mode at Brisbane Airport.	Chair	20 December 2023	Chair sent letter to the Minister on 20 December 2023.
3.3	22 November 2023	Aviation White Paper slides	Secretariat to circulate Aviation White Paper presentation slides to AAB members and publish on the AAB website within 24 hours.	Secretariat	23 November 2023	Slides sent to members on 23 November 2023.
3.5	22 November 2023	Scope of advice	Airservices to provide AAB members with information on the scope of services for the independent technical advisor.	Airservices Australia	5 March 2024	Scope provided to AAB members on 5 March 2024.
3.6	22 November 2023	Noise Monitors	Airservices to follow up on Ms Bignell's questions to Envirosuite in relation to raw noise monitor data.	Airservices Australia	11 December 2023	Answers provided to Ms Bignell on 11 December 2023.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Person	Completion Date	Status
3.7	22 November 2023	Airservices reporting	Airservices to provide information on aircraft go-arounds, fuel dumping and contrails.	Airservices Australia	6 March 2024	Airservices provided update at Meeting #4. Information on fuel dumping available on ATSB website. Information on contrails available on Airservices website.
3.9	22 November 2023	A380/B777 northwest flightpath and noise discrepancy	Airservices to investigate the flightpath and difference in noise readings of the A380 and B777 aircraft in the northwest of the city over Ipswich and report findings to the AAB.	Airservices Australia	5 March 2024	Answers provided to AAB members on 5 March 2024.