

BRISBANE AIRPORT COMMUNITY AIRSPACE
ADVISORY BOARD

Annual Report 2024

January – December 2024

June 2026



Contents

Introduction	3
Executive summary	4
Background	5
Summary of activity	6
Consistency of airspace operations with the Noise Action Plan	7
Appendix A – Action Items	8
Open Action Items as at Meeting #6 – 20 November 2024	8
2024 Calendar Year – Closed Action Items as at Meeting #6 – 20 November 2024	11

Introduction

As Chair of the Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB) and in line with its Terms of Reference, I am pleased to provide the AAB's Annual Report on activities for 2024. I have consulted with the former Chair, Mr Ron Brent, as he was Chair for the first part of 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Jordan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kim Jordan
Chair
Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board

Executive summary

The Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB) continues to be a key consultation body for the community to share and receive information and advice on the management of aircraft noise around Brisbane Airport. The AAB met three times in 2024.

Discussions in 2024 focussed on the implementation of changes to the airspace around Brisbane Airport which are proposed in response to the recommendations of Airservices Australia's (Airservices) Noise Action Plan for Brisbane (the Noise Action Plan); the use of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations (SODPROPS) at Brisbane Airport; the Aviation White Paper; and airport land use planning and development processes.

The AAB provided regular feedback and input to the community consultation Airservices undertook on the Noise Action Plan during 2024. This was focused on initial concepts for Package Three, which explores opportunities to reduce the frequency and concentration of flights over communities within current airspace constraints. The AAB's industry members provided input into reviewing airport operations, and provided potential ideas on how to improve measures and noise abatement actions.

A milestone achievement for the AAB in 2024 was its advocacy for the introduction of what became the *Air Services (Use of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations at Brisbane Airport) Direction 2024*, which was issued by the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, under section 16(1) of the *Air Services Act 1995* on 17 September 2024.

The written direction required Airservices to implement the actions within recommendation 2.1 of the Noise Action Plan by 30 November 2024, requiring Airservices to prioritise the development and delivery of procedures that require the use of SODPROPS during both daytime and nighttime operations at Brisbane Airport, when meteorological and other operating conditions permit.

Managing the impacts of aircraft noise on the community while balancing the need for a strong aviation industry is a challenging space with the need for significant ongoing work and consultation. The AAB will continue its efforts to explore feasible options to improve airspace operations around Brisbane Airport consistent with the Noise Action Plan.

The AAB thanks all those who have taken the time to engage with or participate in AAB meetings and other activities during the year.

The AAB would also like to acknowledge Ms Kirsten Stewart and Ms Sandra Bell for their contributions to the AAB, following their resignation in 2024.

Background

The Australian Government announced the establishment of the AAB on 9 March 2023 in recognition of community concerns about aircraft noise impacts, and to help provide appropriate community involvement in the ongoing operations of Brisbane Airport.

In response to the recommendations and actions contained in the Post Implementation Review (PIR) of Brisbane Airport's new parallel runway after it became operational in July 2020, Airservices developed the Noise Action Plan. The plan sets out four staged packages for Airservices' proposals to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on the greater Brisbane community.

During 2024, Airservices undertook two phases of community engagement for the Noise Action Plan.

Under its Terms of Reference, the AAB has the responsibility to:

- review airport operations in accordance with the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane
- 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
- monitor the implementation of the improvement measures, including those identified in the recommendations from the Airservices PIR
- regularly consult within communities and organisations represented by individual members to ensure that views and input expressed in meetings are representative of broader and differing perspectives
- through the Chair, provide advice to Government on the consistency of operations with the Noise Action Plan and implementation of the PIR recommendations from a community perspective
- operate in a transparent manner to maintain accountability to the community.

Matters outside the scope of the Noise Action Plan, including proposals for curfews, movement caps or other operating restrictions, are excluded from the responsibilities of AAB.

Summary of activity

The AAB met on the following dates in 2024:

- Wednesday 6 March 2024 – Meeting #4
- Monday 9 September 2024 – Meeting #5
- Wednesday 20 November 2024 – Meeting #6

Minutes from all AAB meetings are available at: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/aviation/airports/brisbane-airport-community-airspace-advisory-board>.

Appendix A details actions closed during these meetings; and actions open as at the last meeting in 2024. They provide some insight into the work that the AAB has undertaken during the year.

The AAB's activities for the year include:

Providing a forum for community members to have greater input into the development of measures intended to contribute to improved management of airspace around Brisbane Airport.

Facilitating community consultation on the Noise Action Plan, including providing direct feedback on public facing consultation materials to ensure they are easily understood, and recommending actions to improve Airservices' engagement approach.

Facilitating opportunities for greater sharing of information to the public about the activities being undertaken to implement measures for the improved management of airspace around Brisbane Airport.

Facilitating opportunities for Community Representatives to have direct access to industry representatives and receive detailed information on airspace operations and procedures, flight path changes processes, aircraft noise monitoring, and fleet and technological improvements.

Monitoring the implementation of the Noise Action Plan, arising from the recommendations provided in the Brisbane New Parallel Runway Flight Paths Post Implementation Review (PIR).

Facilitating outcomes to improve communications to community about airspace matters and implementation of actions for the Noise Action Plan.

Advocating for the introduction of a Ministerial Direction to facilitate greater use of SODPROPS at Brisbane Airport, resulting in changes implemented from 28 November 2024 for SODPROPS to become the priority mode of operation at Brisbane Airport when meteorological and other operational conditions allow, and the introduction of improved SODPPROPS utilisation reporting.

Advocating for the provision higher quality data to be used by industry when measuring the impact of noise and increasing the sharing of this information with the community.

Providing feedback and input to community consultation undertaken on initial concepts for Package Three of the Noise Action Plan.

Providing feedback to Brisbane Airport Corporation on its communication strategy for advising community of longer term night works where the new runway had to be used for heavier aircraft.

Onboarding a new Chair.

Consistency of airspace operations with the Noise Action Plan

At each meeting in 2024 Airservices provided updates on the implementation of recommendations under the Noise Action Plan. These included an overview of the actions taken by Airservices towards implementation.

In 2024 Airservices focussed on implementing changes under the Noise Action Plan to facilitate greater use of SODPROPS. These included changes implemented from 28 November 2024 for SODPROPS to become the priority mode of operation at Brisbane Airport when meteorological and other operational conditions allow, and associated flight path changes.

Airservices also undertook public consultation on initial concepts for Package Three of the Noise Action Plan.

Due to the complexity of airspace operations and design, changes may take some time to fully implement. Despite this, the AAB is committed to ensuring airspace operations are as consistent as possible with the recommendations of the Noise Action Plan. This was achieved in 2024 through detailed discussions on the changes implemented with a strong focus on maximising the use of SODPROPS.

The AAB will continue to monitor implementation of the Noise Action Plan, and engage with industry and government on how to better achieve effective outcomes for the community.

Appendix A – Action Items

Open Action Items as at Meeting #6 – 20 November 2024

Note: the status of action items is at AAB Meeting #6 on 20 November 2024. The status of action items may have since changed from this point in time. Updates for action items are published in the minutes following a meeting of the AAB.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	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		Update provided at meeting #6. Airservices met with David Diamond to discuss requirements, and has produced a current movement diagram. BAC is reviewing this data against Brisbane Airport Master Plan projections to produce forward forecasts, which can be used to provide better information on aircraft movements. BAC and Airservices expect to be able to provide outputs shortly.
2.6a	9 September 2024	ATC Operations	Airservices to undertake a process to examine Air Traffic Control operations to determine whether opportunity exists to improve practice.	Airservices		Update provided at meeting #6. ATC operations continue to be examined by Airservices. Airservices to provide data on SID and STAR tracking for discussion with community representatives further in a future meeting.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	Completion Date	Status/Outcome
3.4	22 November 2023	Independent Assurance	Chair and Donna Marshall to discuss scope of works for Airservices' independent technical advisor for quality assurance.	Chair Airservices		Clarified at meeting #6. Discussion to be informed by Chair engaging with community representatives out of session.
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 BAC		Update provided at meeting #6. Airservices to request independent technical advisor to provide advice on metrics. Airservices to share proposed scope of request with AAB Chair ahead of progressing.
4.1	6 March 2024	Phase 1 Options Assessment Report Questions	Stephen Muller to provide questions for Airservices' written response via the Secretariat.	Stephen Muller Secretariat Airservices		Airservices has provided a written response. Further discussion to occur between Stephen and Airservices out of session, following confirmation from community representative of specific information being sought.
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		Update provided at meeting #6. Further discussion to occur between Chair and AAB Community representatives to inform letter to the Minister.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	Completion Date	Status/Outcome
5.1	9 September 2024	Opportunities to reduce noise impacts from airline operations	Airline representatives to bring ideas about reducing noise impacts from their operations to the next AAB meeting.	Qantas Virgin		Update provided at meeting #6. Airline representatives are discussing opportunities to reduce noise impacts with Airservices and will report back in a future AAB meeting.
5.2	9 September 2024	Design Concepts	Airservices to provide the AAB with design concepts ahead of release to the community to test community sentiment and take early feedback.	Airservices		Update provided at meeting #6. Airservices organising session with community representatives with support from secretariat.
5.3	9 September 2024	Airservices Population Overflight Evaluation	Ms Bignell to review the Airservices Population Overflight Evaluation Report tabled, and provide further comments to Airservices prior to its review.	Ms Bignell Airservices		Ms Bignell has provided comments to Airservices for consideration. Response pending.
6.1	20 November 2024	Noise Complaints and Information Service website framing	Airservices to review wording for the complaint lodgement form on the Noise Complaints and Information Service website, and seek views from the AAB Chair and community representatives.	Airservices		New item.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	Completion Date	Status/Outcome
6.2	20 November 2024	Explaining Noise Action Plan for Brisbane Phases and Packages	Airservices to consider opportunities to more simply explain Noise Action Plan for Brisbane Phases and Packages to community members, and report back to AAB.	Airservices		New item.
6.3	20 November 2024	SIDS and Departure Tracking Visualisations	Airservices to provide data on actual aircraft numbers and percentage of flights taken off the Standard Instrument Departures and Standard Instrument Arrivals.	Airservices		New item.
6.4	20 November 2024	Alternative meeting venues	Community representatives consider potential locations for future meetings, and provide to the Chair and Secretariat for consideration.	Community representatives		New item.

2024 Calendar Year – Closed Action Items as at Meeting #6 – 20 November 2024

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	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.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	Completion Date	Status
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 Secretariat	8 May 2024	Closed, as the session with Air Traffic Controllers and AAB members was held 8 May 2024. Note: a revised 2.6A has been opened to cover the second part of this action. Airservices continue to undertake a process of examining Air Traffic Control tower operations.
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	9 September 2024	The Chair provided written suggestions which Airservices are considering as part of a wider review.
2B.2	18 September 2023	Issues Register	The Secretariat and the Chair will develop an updated 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	9 September 2024	The Issues Register will be the responsibility of the Secretariat.
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	Chair	20 December 2023	Chair sent letter to the Minister on 20 December 2023.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	Completion Date	Status
			AAB's views on the use of SODPROPS as the preferred operating mode at Brisbane Airport.			
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	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	11 December 2023	Answers provided to Ms Bignell on 11 December 2023.
3.7	22 November 2023	Airservices reporting	Airservices to provide information on aircraft go-arounds, fuel dumping and contrails.	Airservices	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	5 March 2024	Answers provided to AAB members on 5 March 2024.

No.	Meeting Date	Item	Requirement	Responsible Party	Completion Date	Status
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	16 April 2024	The Secretariat provided member questions to BAC and Airservices on 10 April 2024. BAC's response was provided to Ms Bignell on 16 April 2024.
4.5	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 Secretariat	20 March 2024	Presentation emailed to members on 20 March 2024.
5.4	9 September 2024	SODPROPS information	Airservices to provide a written response to David Diamond's questions regarding SODPROPS.	Airservices Australia	20 November 2024	Airservices has provided a response out of session. Item closed after discussion in meeting #6.