



Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

29 March 2022

Mr David Diamond
Chair
Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance Inc.
PO Box 2031
New Farm QLD 4005
Via email: contact@bfpca.org.au

Dear Mr Diamond

Thank you for your letter of 4 March 2022 seeking an outline of the Australian Labor Party's position in respect of the Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance (the Alliance)'s aircraft noise report card.

I am attaching to this letter the Alliance's "report card" complete with Labor's policy positions, but I wanted to take this opportunity to set out Labor's view in more detail.

Led by our local MPs, Labor has long argued the Morrison-Joyce Government needed to take seriously the concerns of residents affected by aircraft noise. We were pleased to see the Government follow Labor's lead last September by establishing an independent airport forum for Brisbane residents. If Labor is successful at the next election, we will make that forum permanent and independent along the lines of the Sydney Airport Community Forum. There may well be value in a continued role for the Brisbane Airport consultation group insofar as it related to other activities on the airport – that would be something for us to work through with Brisbane Airport and other stakeholders if we are fortunate enough to form government after the next election.

Labor is committed, in government, to delivering a new aviation white paper of the kind not seen since Anthony Albanese was Minister in 2009. That white paper set the scene for a range of the consultative mechanisms now in place, but we recognise that more than a decade later they require a refresh.

While Labor does not support the idea of a curfew for Brisbane Airport, we note the Brisbane Airport Post Implementation Review Advisory Forum (BAPAF) has reserved its position on the need for demand management measures until noise improvements achieved from immediate measures proposed by the Brisbane Airport Corporation, and the outcomes of changes committed to through the Airservices Post Implementation Review, can be assessed.

We further note that in response to BAPAF's recent progress report, Airservices appointed independent global air traffic management advisor Trax International to independently review

and make recommendations across all aspects of the flightpath design, airspace operation and conduct of the Airservices Post Implementation Review of Brisbane airspace. If Airservices or BAPAF, in reliance on any recommendations from Trax International, recommends other forms of demand management, we will seriously and properly consider those recommendations.

Labor is open to considering other ideas to better manage aircraft noise for Brisbane residents. These ideas could include, but should not be limited to, increased independence for the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman, further independent reviews of runway usage or the issuance of a Ministerial Direction to Airservices Australia to minimise overall noise exposure to Brisbane residents. We also believe that Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations should be maximised insofar as safety and weather allow, and that Airservices Australia should install a permanent noise monitoring station at an appropriate elevation in either Hawthorne or Balmoral. For the avoidance of doubt, Labor is not advocating any changes that leave people living under the flight paths of the legacy runway worse off.

While residents in Brisbane have experienced a change in noise patterns as a result of the recent opening of Brisbane Airport's second runway, Brisbane is not the only city in Australia where residents are concerned about aircraft noise. A new white paper delivered by Labor in government will take a detailed and coordinated look at whether our national policy framework on aircraft noise remains fit for purpose and make recommendations to Government about any necessary legislative or regulatory changes that could better address this.

Should you wish to discuss this position in more detail, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Joseph Solomon, via our Ballarat office on (03) 5338 8123.

I have copied this letter to my parliamentary colleagues Terri Butler, Anika Wells and Graham Perrett, and the Labor candidates for Brisbane Madonna Jarrett, Dickson Ali France, Ryan Peter Cossar and Longman Rebecca Fanning.

Yours sincerely



Catherine King