BFPCA Community Survey 2022

Interim Report



Brisbane Airport Flight Paths BFPCA Community Survey

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Table of Contents

Survey Overview	5
Mental Health Impacts	5
Lifestyle and family impacts	6
Airservices PIR Noise Improvement Trial Results	6
Appendix A: Selection of representative comments from the community survey	8
Impact on Mental Health	8
Impact on Family Well-Being	9
Changing address	10
Impact on Sleep	11
Brisbane is no longer a liveable city	11
Appendix B: Preliminary Survey Results	13
Question 1	13
Question 2	13
Question 3:	14
Question 4:	16
Question 5:	16
Question 6:	17
Question 7:	18

Question 8:	19
Question 9:	20
Question 10:	21
Question 11:	22
Question 12:	25
Question 13:	26
Question 14:	27
Question 15:	28
Question 16:	29
Question 17:	30
Question 18:	31
Question 19:	32
Questions 20 - 24:	32
Question 25:	32

Survey Overview

BFPCA brings together community members adversely affected by Brisbane Airport's flight paths. Collectively and as individuals, BFPCA members have been attempting to resolve concerns with aircraft noise via multiple pathways, including:

- Airservices' aircraft noise complaints system and PIR process;
- The Brisbane airport community aviation consultation group (BACACG);
- Direct engagement with Airservices and BAC as part of a technical airspace design workshop held on 24 February 2021;
- and the Brisbane Airport PIR Advisory Forum.

To date, there has been an unwillingness on the part of Airservices and BAC to recognise the identified consultation deficiencies and to undertake steps to engage meaningfully with the community to accurately assess the impact of aircraft noise associated with the operation of Brisbane airport.

To this end BFPCA undertook an initial survey in December 2020 which provided a powerful and insightful summary of the community experience since the new runway and the revised flight path operations. The 2020 survey highlighted the extent to which Brisbane Airport's new flight paths adversely impacted people living, learning and working in communities across Brisbane.

This second survey aimed to assess whether the impact on lifestyle and wellbeing had changed since 2020 and specifically whether the Airservices PIR Noise Improvement Trials that commenced in 2022 had resulted in any noticeable reduction in impact.

This report is an interim report as the 2022 survey will run until 30th June 2022. The 2022 survey to date contains the responses from over 1600 respondents across 37 Brisbane postcodes. Well over 90% of respondents are permanent residents, ranging in age from 18 to over 66 years of age. This report provides a summary of results so far in anticipation of a final report containing all data to be published early July 2022.

The key findings to date from the current 2022 survey are:

- the alarming levels of mental health and stress impacts on Brisbane households (75% of respondents)
- the lack of any noticeable improvements in noise levels of number of flights due to Airservices PIR Noise Improvement Trials.

Mental Health Impacts

The current survey has recorded similar or higher lifestyle and mental health impacts than the 2020 survey. Given the levels of impact documented in 2020 it is a point of continuing disappointment that neither Airservices or Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) have seen fit to undertake serious community surveys of their own.

Mental health impacts have continued to rise from 68% in 2020 to a staggering 75% of respondents in 2022 agreeing or strongly agreeing that they have suffered mental distress as a result of aircraft noise. In 84.6% of respondents in 2020 and again 84% of respondents in 2022 reported feelings of being unable to escape aircraft noise. Sleep disturbance has also seen a consistent increase from 81% of respondents in 2020 rising to 88% in 2022. Similarly, in 2020 45% of respondents reported some level of physical symptoms of stress associated with aircraft noise. In the 2022 survey this figure has risen to an alarming 75% of respondents reporting some level of physical symptoms of stress related to aircraft noise.

These results paint a picture of continued and increasing mental health and stress related impacts associated with the operation of Brisbane airport. The increase and ongoing high levels of impact ought to be a concern to representatives of local communities. Such levels would seem to justify the introduction of a curfew and caps on flights similar to the measures introduced for Sydney airport.

Lifestyle and family impacts

The 2020 survey established that the lifestyles of Brisbane residents were significantly impacted with 38% reporting increased strain on family relations, 91% reporting interference with household activities such as using the phone or watch TV, 83% reporting interference in using outdoor spaces at home, and 49% reporting they were less inclined to entertain at home as a result of aircraft noise.

In the current survey we have found a very similar and consistent level of impact with 41% of respondents reported increased strain on family relationships, 91% reported interference with household activities, 84% reported interference with the use of outdoor spaces at home, and 49% reporting they were less inclined to entertain at home.

Airservices PIR Noise Improvement Trial Results

A key aim of the current survey was to assess whether the Airservices PIR Noise Improvement Trails have resulted in any noticeable reduction in the impact of aircraft noise. Airservices commenced the following two trials:

• Extension of Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations (SODPROPS) hours. The trial aims to extend SODPROPS operations to 8am on Saturday and Sunday mornings, when weather conditions allow. When SODPROPS is in use, jets and most propeller-driven (turboprop) aircraft arrive and depart over Moreton Bay. This trial commenced on 24/2/2022 and will run for 12 months.

• Restrictions on intersection departures from the New Parallel Runway. The aim of the trial is to limit intersection departures for all aircraft (jets and turboprops) from the new runway over the city. This means aircraft will commence their take-off roll from the northern end of the new runway. By having aircraft start their take-off roll from this point, they can become airborne earlier and climb higher as they fly over communities. This trial commenced on 24/2/2022 and will run for 12 months.

In 2022 respondents were asked during May 2022 whether they had noticed any notable improvements in terms of weekend morning flights or lessening in aircraft noise due to the measures taken in the Airservices trials. The BFPCA survey is the only survey of Brisbane residents to our knowledge taken to assess the impact of trials to date.

Regarding the levels of aircraft noise 92% of respondents reported noise levels that were about the same or noticeably higher than levels prior to 24/2/2022. Similarly, 86% of respondents reported that the number of flights between 6am and 8am on Saturday and Sundays mornings were about the same or higher than levels they experienced prior to 24/2/2022.

The current survey strongly suggests that both Airservices Noise Improvement Trails have to date resulted in negligible if any improvement in flight numbers between 6am and 8am on weekend mornings, or reduction in noise from overhead flights.

Appendix A: Selection of representative comments from the community survey

The community survey asked a final open ended question "please share any other comments or insights that will help our cause." The following verbatim comments from respondents are included as representative of the general sentiment of all respondents, and/or help to highlight the severity of the impact on people's lives:

Impact on Mental Health

Flights departing and arriving over the bay will vastly improve our mental health. In particular the Qatar and Dubai flights which actually frighten me. I feel like they are landing on my house.

I have lived at the same address for almost 26 years and I have never received any communication in regards to flights affecting my property pre or post 2020. I now stand in my yard and have aircraft flying directly over my head. My home and garden are my sanctuary and sanity, and now I feel as if I have no quiet space to de-stress from 'life'. I spend most of my time at home standing outside using 'EXPLANE' taking decibel readings instead of spending time with my family. In regards to the two hours or so of quiet on a Saturday and Sunday morning, well it does little to counteract the fact aircraft continue to fly overhead for the remainder of the day and long into the late hours of a Saturday and Sunday night!! I feel disappointed, disillusioned and disheartened for the future for myself, my family and all affected residents of what was once a peaceful, beautiful Brisbane

Supposedly there has been a recent trial of new flight paths If this has been the case which we very much doubt then the noise pollution has become worse and not better. It is fair to say that as our house is right at the point where the Southern NPR and the Northern NPR flight paths converge right over the top of our house so there is no refuge or respite. It's a daily living hell.

The noise by these aircrafts are so loud, I had no idea. I literally cannot hear people talk inside when an aircraft flies over. Sometimes it's so loud, it feels as though it's about to crash into our building.

I find the flights from 5pm through till about 9/10 are terrible. Unless there is a SW wind and the planes are going out The flights go right over my head and can be every 4-5 minutes. Very distressing. I often wonder why they can't go over the Hamilton golf course from 5pm onwards.

My home shakes often when the plane flies over, living conditions have deteriorated and I have mental stress that I've never experienced before - this needs to be dealt with!

I have found the excessive noise unbearable quite often especially when watching television or trying to sleep. I find most of the time I feel like I am living beside the Tarmac. Thank You.



The low altitude that the planes fly over our homes is so distressful especially at 2.30am when you are in a deep sleep and the vibration and gradual noise of exhaust gases, combustion of fuel and compressor fans reaching a very loud and distressful noise that it grips you in the pit of your stomach.

There are flights early in the morning and after 11at night, they wake me up. When I wake up my heart is thumping, I'm scared. The drone of one plane is quickly replaced by the drone of the next, they come in batches sometimes only a few minutes apart. It's like living in a war zone. Not only the sound of them overhead but as they approach and depart. I grew up in Clayfield and am used to plane noise but this is a whole other level!

I have to control my anger when the planes are passing over so often. As it stresses me so much. The noise is one thing. The feeling of abandonment is the worst.

I am a gardener and spend lots of time in my yard working and relaxing. Once my garden was a place of peace and quiet since the 2nd runway this peace and quiet has gone. It is a place of aircraft noise. This is significantly disturbing my retirement years. It has got even worse now that the aircraft travel is back in full swing.

Seriously it is bad No matter how much you complain it makes no difference

Impact on Family Well-Being

There is a plane at 9:30 every night that is ridiculously loud. Our new alarm clock is the shake of the house as the 6am flight goes over head. We pause the tv at night as we can't hear it when the planes go overhead especially between 8:30 & 9:30 at night.

Sometimes the planes fly so low it is impossible to hear the TV. My pets are affected by the noise as well and look worried when the planes are very low. I think that Brisbane Airport should follow the same guidelines as Sydney Airport.

We desperately need a solution to this. My wife and I at certain times cannot even have a conversation on our front deck without having to stop for every plane. Also, that 9.30pm departure (A380 I think) is so loud it sounds like it's coming through our living room.

I find that we frequently cannot hear each other, guests or the TV. The noise is incredibly distracting and frustrating for all members of the family. Please tell us who we should vote for in the election to get some real action or what protests we can support?

In the last 6-8 weeks, planes are flying directly over our house and much lower than ever before. It is now greatly impacting us in our home particularly at night. We've never experienced this

noise level before now and it seems to have changed since the new trial began. I thought that was going to make it better not worse!

The issue is not only the planes taking off, I find the landings (incoming planes) are just as noisy. It's impossible to hold a conversation in person, on the phone, or in online meetings. Also air pollution isn't good. The smell of jet fuel as the aircraft are coming in (straight over the top of my house).

Continual noise has caused me considerable discontent. I am more irritable and have appealed to my wife to move but costs and where to are deterrents. Moved from Pelican Waters and regret every day.

The noise has not ceased at all. The international flights- Qater and Emirates fly over our house at 9:30-9:40 every night, so low you can nearly see in the windows. This has to STOP. THE FLIGHTS GOING OVER OUR HOUSE FROM 6am EVERY MORNING HAS TO STOP!!!

I have a child with a disability and the aircraft noise is very disturbing to her as she likes to sit on our balcony.

Thank you for all of your efforts. Please keep pushing. We cannot live without a curfew. Many loud planes all day as I work from home. Relentless all day and then having an A380 every night at 9.30pm followed by all those additional planes trying to land before 10pm is absolutely ridiculous. Something more needs to be done.

Can no longer enjoy our backyard due to overhead planes.

My whole house shakes when a380 goes over. We can't use our outdoor areas in peace anymore. We are prisoners in our own home. Sleep disruptions have put a huge strain on our household relationships. We want to move but unsure where to as every suburb is affected. Surely they can't keep torturing us like this we are human beings and deserve to be treated as such.

The aircraft noise has significantly reduced my families quality of life. It has ruined a once beautiful place to live.

Changing address

We are moving back to Morningside in June in part due to the flight noise disruption. Hawthorne is not the same family friendly suburb it used to be due to the crazy flight noise early mornings, day and night!



We both grew up effected by aircraft noise at LHR, we moved to our current address as it was not even near a main road, we loved the peace, but now planes fly directly over our house. Yes we talk about moving.

I had to move out of this home in Bulimba, we had never intended on moving but the noise for me was very hard to deal with. I was told lies at the consultation process and about how loud it would be compared to what it really was. The moving process created a lot of stress in our family. I'm so dissatisfied with the huge level of disruption this has caused to many people.

I also work in Oxford st Bulimba as a real estate agent as I have done for 19 years in Bulimba. The amount of clients who have sold due to noise is considerable and the amount of buyers looking to buy in the area and questioning planes and their noise and talk around the suburbs being affected is considerable. So I know that many families are affected by this....

Impact on Sleep

Please put a curfew and restrictions of flight numbers. Was not prepared to experience this problems before new airway starting. Never been informed about possible noise issues. Aircrafts have been circling around the gap area makes you feeling longer to hear the noise and due to mountainous area causes echo sound of the noise. Sometimes you have to put up with the noise without any pauses one after the other non stop roaring for few hours. I am a shift worker, a nurse makes it harder to handle. Required sleep sometimes late morning or early evening... due to the noise my sleeping has been disturbed badly leading to headache, depression, anxiety, poor concentration and performance at work. Most of all not happy being at home dealing with the noise and the situation I am in. Not happy about BAC and government' decision. Not happy how the community has been treated in regarding to the problem. Brisbane is no longer environmentally friendly and health conscious city but full of pollution everywhere so unlivable. Why I am paying tax for getting treated like this.....

Sleep is the single most important thing for human health and to allow planes to fly late at night is criminal. It's literally harming the health of the people of Brisbane.

The aircraft noise wakes me a 6:00am in the morning when the flights start coming straight over the top of the building in which I live. I now have to sleep with earplugs in attempt not to be woken or disturbed by the aircraft noise.

Brisbane is no longer a liveable city

The information on the BAC flight noise information website gave a completely false impression as to the level of aircraft noise we would be suffering in this area. The complete history of the development of the second runway from what I can see has been a complete whitewash and BAC should be made accountable for the way the development of the new runway was brought about.



Why should Brisbane suffer noise levels which are not allowed in Sydney or Melbourne?

We have lived on small acreage for a quieter lifestyle but now has been dramatically affected due to excessive aircraft noise which we never experienced prior to the new runway opening.

The outbound and inbound flight paths both pass over Lower Brookfield meaning we get noise no matter what the wind direction. Brookfield used to be a quite semi rural area, it is now ruined and this will have significantly affected property value and saleability. Airservices say they have implemented a voluntary curfew but there are still planes late at night and early morning. They tell lies.

There is one particular plane that flies in dreadfully low each night around 9.30/9.35pm that you can set your clock by!! People say you shouldn't have bought under a flight path -- well "hello" majority of us didn't as Bulimba was definitely was a lovely quiet suburb when I arrived over 20 years ago!!

Perhaps all affected homes should be given triple glazing to stop the noise and also reverse cycle air conditioning and a yearly payment to cover the ongoing costs of the air conditioning. Especially if they want to avoid a curfew. Brisbane is sub-tropical city with a 24/7 outdoor lifestyle. We are not a European country (e.g. The Netherlands) where double glazing is standard and triple glazing is becoming mandatory for the cold - but more importantly - it also keeps out the noise. Also, unlike The Netherlands for example, we have a lot more space for flights to pass over the sea and not be confined to passing over the residents of Brisbane. Queensland is 41 times larger than The Netherlands. It would seem that the BAC CFO Gert-Jan de Graaff, considers noise to be an acceptable consequence of the new Brisbane flight paths. This is a short sighted condescending viewpoint which was conveyed via the media and basically mocked the residents of Brisbane as being behind the times and we would have to grow up as noise is a consequence of progress. WRONG - It is not the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in the 19th Century. This is the 21st Century and noise pollution is a major problem. This is the era of reduced noise - e.g. electric cars etc.

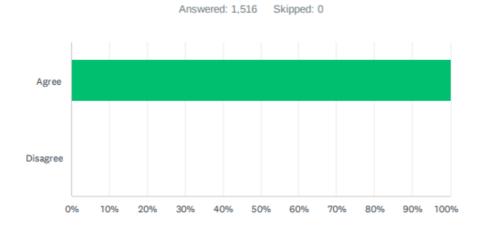
We purchased our property 8 years ago and one of the things that helps us choose our location was avoiding being under the flight path. Now we are under the new flight path and during peak flying it is awful.



Appendix B: Preliminary Survey Results

Question 1

Q1 Electronic consent:By clicking on the Agree button below you are indicating that: you have read the above information you voluntarily agree to participate you are at least 18 years of age



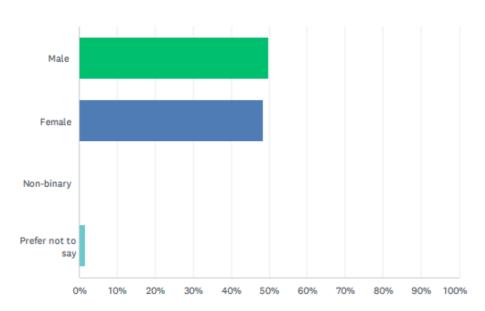
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	99.93%	1,515
Disagree	0.07%	1
TOTAL		1,516



Question 2

Q2 With which gender do you most identify?



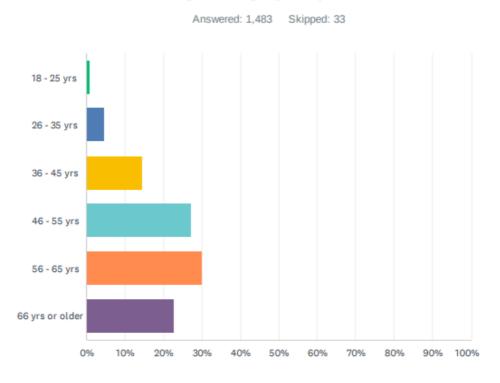


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	49.73%	737
Female	48.45%	718
Non-binary	0.27%	4
Prefer not to say	1.55%	23
TOTAL		1,482



Question 3:

Q3 Which age category do you fall within?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
18 - 25 yrs	0.81%	12
26 - 35 yrs	4.59%	68
36 - 45 yrs	14.57%	216
46 - 55 yrs	27.24%	404
56 - 65 yrs	30.01%	445
66 yrs or older	22.79%	338
TOTAL		1,483



Question 4:

In which Postcode¹ do you live?

 $4067_{\,4055}4101_{\,4172}4012_{\,4174}4061_{\,4032}4068_{\,4153}4118_{\,4102}4170$ $4014\,4069_{\,4000}4005_{\,4151}4171_{\,4154}4007_{\,4006}4011$ $4066\,4520_{\,4173}4103_{\,4065}4169_{\,4121}4013_{\,4030}4105_{\,4120}4104$ $_{\,4507}4152$



¹Includes the top 37 Postcodes in which we received 4 or more responses. The total number of postcodes for all responses was 72.

Question 5:

In what street do you live?

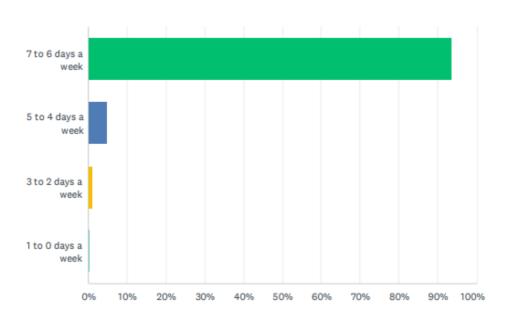
[Not included in this report]



Question 6:

Q6 On average how many days per week do you spend at this location?





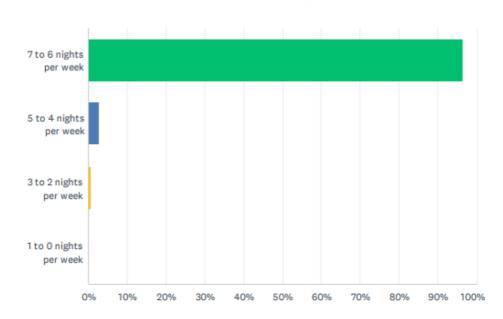
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
7 to 6 days a week	93.53%	1,388
5 to 4 days a week	4.99%	74
3 to 2 days a week	1.15%	17
1 to 0 days a week	0.34%	5
TOTAL		1,484



Question 7:

Q7 On average how many nights per week do you spend at this location?





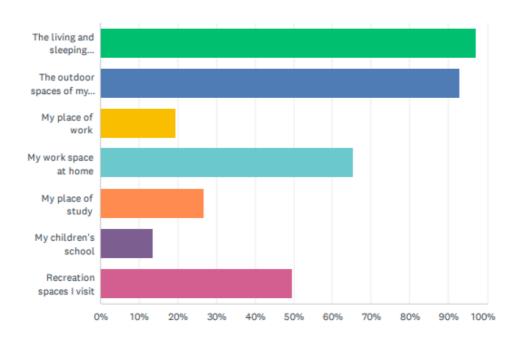
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
7 to 6 nights per week	96.43%	1,432
5 to 4 nights per week	2.83%	42
3 to 2 nights per week	0.54%	8
1 to 0 nights per week	0.20%	3
TOTAL		1,485



Question 8:

Q8 I/my family are affected by aircraft noise in (select all that apply):



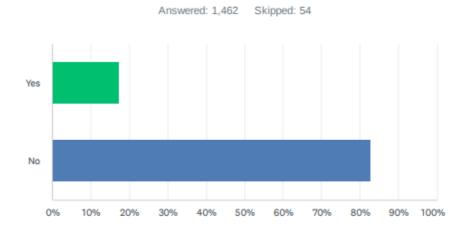


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The living and sleeping quarters in my home	96.94%	1,393
The outdoor spaces of my home	92.97%	1,336
My place of work	19.42%	279
My work space at home	65.34%	939
My place of study	26.58%	382
My children's school	13.36%	192
Recreation spaces I visit	49.41%	710
Total Respondents: 1,437		



Question 9:

Q9 Were you affected by overhead aircraft prior to the opening of the new runway in July 2020?

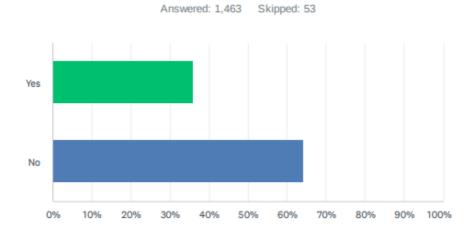


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.31%	253
No	82.69%	1,209
TOTAL		1,462



Question 10:

Q10 Do you consider yourself particularly vulnerable to aircraft noise? E.g. you have a disability, are a shift worker, elderly, or have a health problem that is exacerbated by noise.

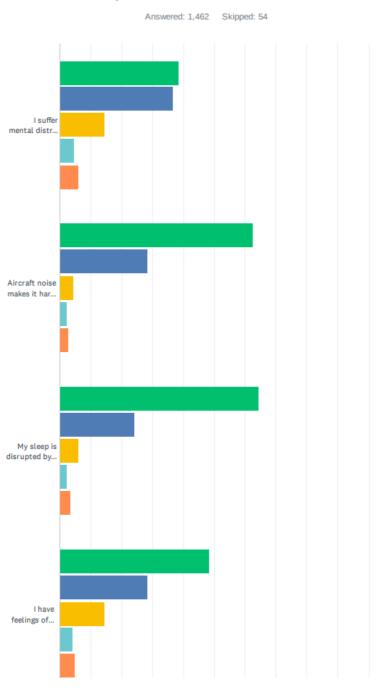


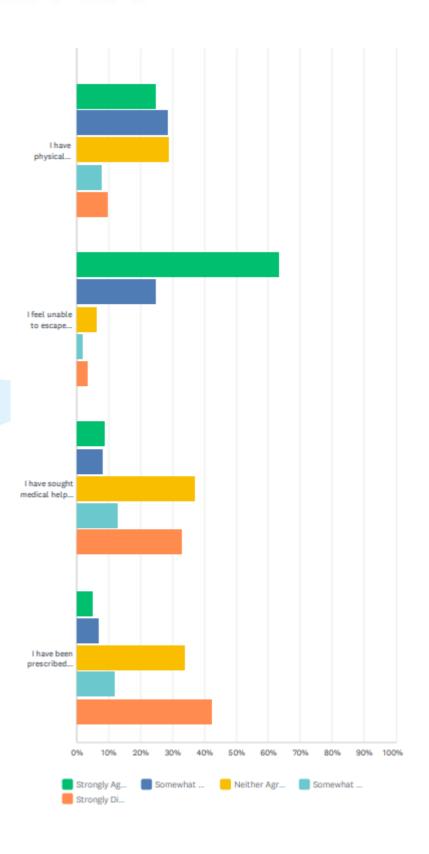
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	35.89% 525
No	64.11% 938
TOTAL	1,463



Question 11:

Q11 Please indicate how strongly the following statements reflect your experience with aircraft noise.







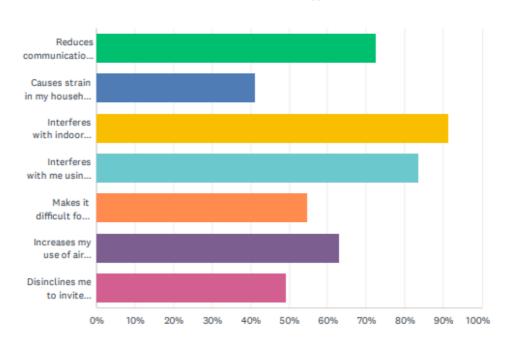
	STRONGLY AGREE	SOMEWHAT AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
I suffer mental distress related to aircraft noise	38.49% 557	36.63% 530	14.44% 209	4.42% 64	6.01% 87	1,447
Aircraft noise makes it harder for me to concentrate	62.51% 907	28.39% 412	4.20% 61	2.14% 31	2.76% 40	1,451
My sleep is disrupted by aircraft noise	64.49% 937	24.02% 349	5.99% 87	2.13% 31	3.37% 49	1,453
I have feelings of worry that noise will ease but then return later	48.31% 702	28.36% 412	14.45% 210	3.99% 58	4.89% 71	1,453
I have physical symptoms of stress caused by aircraft noise	24.76% 357	28.64% 413	28.92% 417	7.91% 114	9.78% 141	1,442
I feel unable to escape aircraft noise	63.37% 915	24.93% 360	6.23% 90	1.94% 28	3.53% 51	1,444
I have sought medical help as a result of health impacts from excessive aircraft noise	8.90% 128	8.06% 116	37.18% 535	12.79% 184	33.08% 476	1,439
I have been prescribed medication for a noise-related health condition	5.11% 73	6.79% 97	33.80% 483	11.97% 171	42.34% 605	1,429



Question 12:

Q12 Please tell us how aircraft noise pollution impacts activities and interactions in your home (select all that apply):



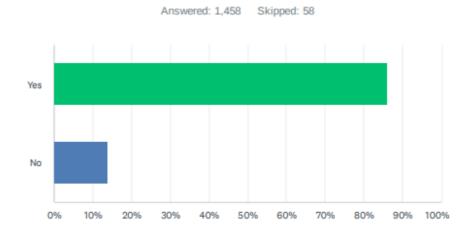


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Reduces communication in my home	72.42%	1,016
Causes strain in my household relationships	41.13%	577
Interferes with indoor activities such as watching TV, radio, reading, using telephone, VC	91.38%	1,282
Interferes with me using my outdoor space	83.68%	1,174
Makes it difficult for me to work from home	54.88%	770
Increases my use of air conditioning due to the need to close windows & doors	62.94%	883
Disinclines me to invite family or friends to my home	49.32%	692
Total Respondents: 1,403		



Question 13:

Q13 Do you experience stress or worry about the value of your property in relation to aircraft noise?

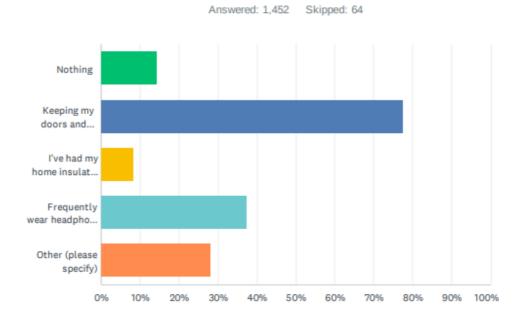


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.15%	1,256
No	13.85%	202
TOTAL		1,458



Question 14:

Q14 What do you do to cope with aircraft noise (select all that apply)?

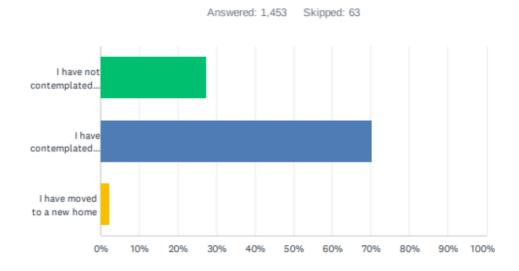


ISWER CHOICES RESPONSES		
Nothing	14.26%	207
Keeping my doors and windows closed	77.55%	1,126
I've had my home insulated to reduce the noise	8.26%	120
Frequently wear headphones or earbuds to reduce the noise impact	37.33%	542
Other (please specify)	28.24%	410
Total Respondents: 1,452		



Question 15:

Q15 Which of the following best describes your situation in response to the level of overhead aircraft noise?



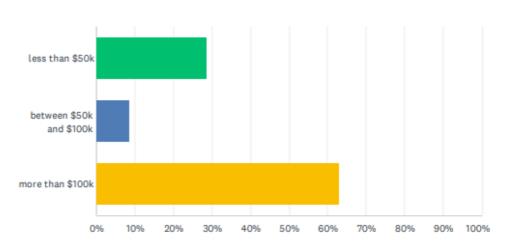
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I have not contemplated moving	27.32% 3	897
I have contemplated moving to a new home	70.27% 1,0	21
I have moved to a new home	2.41%	35
TOTAL	1,4	53



Question 16:

Q16 Approximately how much did it cost you to make the move?



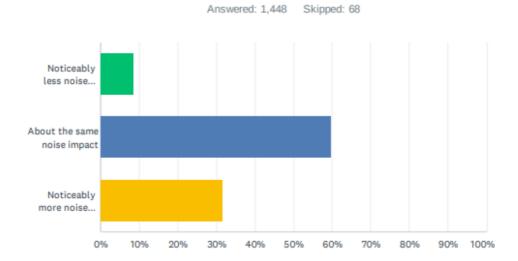


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
less than \$50k	28.57%	10
between \$50k and \$100k	8.57%	3
more than \$100k	62.86%	22
TOTAL		35



Question 17:

Q17 Since 24/2/2022 AirServices have been trialing the following changes in aircraft flightpaths: Extending over the bay operations (SODPROPS) from 6:00am to 8am on Saturday and Sunday mornings, when weather conditions allow (from 24/02/2022) Prioritizing full length runway departures where possible to achieve higher attitude flights over residential areas (from 24/02/2022) Requiring jet aircraft to remain on the Standard Instrument Departure (SID) pathways until reaching 10-12,000 feet (from 31 March 2022) How would you describe the impact of aircraft noise you experience now compared to before the trial?

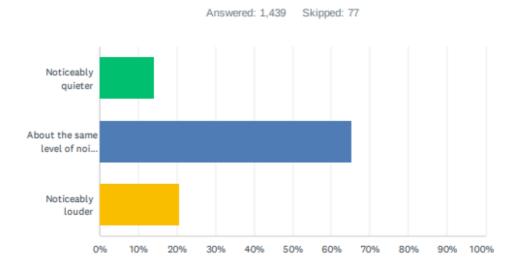


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Noticeably less noise impact	8.43% 122
About the same noise impact	59.81% 866
Noticeably more noise impact	31.77% 460
TOTAL	1,448



Question 18:

Q18 Since the trial started (i.e., the 24/02/2022) how would you describe the level of aircraft noise you experience now on Saturday and Sunday mornings compared to before the trial?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Noticeably quieter	14.04%	202
About the same level of noise (i.e., no noticeable difference)	65.32%	940
Noticeably louder	20.64%	297
TOTAL		1,439



Question 19:

Are you comfortable confidentially sharing your name and contact information with us?

[Not included in this report]

Questions 20 - 24:

Contact Details

[Not included in this report]

Question 25:

Please share any other comments or insights that may help our cause.

[A summary of responses to this question are listed in Appendix A]