

Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance, Inc. PO Box 2031 New Farm QLD 4005 contact@bfpca.org.au

## 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 Via email: <u>Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au</u>

Brisbane, 23 November 2022

## Excessive flight path noise pollution across Brisbane: BFPCA meeting request

## Dear Minister,

Brisbane residents are suffering from unrelenting and unsustainable aircraft noise resulting from the New Parallel Runway at Brisbane Airport and associated flight path design changes to Brisbane's airspace.

Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance (BFCPA) formed in November 2020, soon after the new flight paths become operational when we all realised Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) and Airservices Australia's promises about minimal impacts were lies.

Since then, our community has worked with the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO), Airservices Australia, and Brisbane Airport Corporation through their established channels to try and effect change. The ANO corroborated the Brisbane community's experience that community consultation for the introduction of the new airspace architecture was **inadequate and misleading** (see ANO report Oct 2021<sup>1</sup>), but Airservices and BAC failed to act. Instead, evidence from FOI releases and Senate Estimates confirms that they used their immense institutional power to stonewall people suffering and gaslight communities and elected representatives by lying about the volume of complaints they receive through arcane reporting methods.<sup>2</sup>

We then turned to our local elected representatives, both incumbent and aspiring, for help. As a result, the Brisbane Airport Post Implementation Review Advisory Forum (BAPAF) was created by the former government. Under sustained pressure from our community for independent oversight of the Post Implementation Review, BAPAF recommended that Airservices commission TRAX International to conduct a review. This review produced 49 recommendations across four work packages that could have already been implemented by Airservices to mitigate the impacts of noise

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>https://bfpca.org.au/ano-report/</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>https://bfpca.org.au/ncis/</u> and <u>https://bfpca.org.au/estimates/</u>



it unleashed on Brisbane homes, once again **demonstrating their incompetence** by failing to do so during their original design process.

Airservices has committed to adopting the measures put forward by TRAX, some of which the Brisbane community welcomes. However, it is clear these **measures are taking too long and merely tweak the edges of the aircraft noise pollution problem** rather than aiming for its heart. Some of these measures will **shift the noise onto new communities** who are left in the dark in the same style of injustice inflicted upon us some two years ago – further injustice which BFPCA is determined to prevent.

We also know through our contact and collaboration with other communities across Australia that Airservices' incompetence is causing similar suffering and loss of quality of life in Hobart, Gold Coast, Perth, Adelaide, Sunshine Coast, Melbourne and soon Western Sydney. This multijurisdictional impact elevates this issue from a local to a national scale warranting Ministerial intervention.

We write to seek a meeting with you to discuss measures that will have a real positive impact on noise pollution in Brisbane; measures that are **within your immediate powers** as Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government. We hope to deliver the messages from our community members at this meeting about the toll this unjust suffering is having on our quality of life. We will also demonstrate that there are immediate measures that will enable BAC and the aviation industry in Queensland to continue to prosper without the scale of human cost currently being inflicted.

Representatives from BFPCA are available to come to you and to work around your availability. We look forward to working with you directly to address the Brisbane situation.

Yours faithfully,

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Dr Marcus Foth Chair, Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance, Inc.

