

# Jonathan Sriranganathan

## Greens for Brisbane City Council

### *Ending Aircraft Noise Pollution*

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31 January, 2024

Dear fellow residents,

I write to outline the position of the Queensland Greens at the local government level regarding ongoing aircraft noise pollution from Brisbane's major airports. The Greens are running candidates in all 26 wards of Brisbane City Council, as well as in several neighbouring council regions such as Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast and Ipswich. The following response represents the united position of all Greens candidates running for local government in South-East Queensland in March 2024.

Disruptive aircraft noise can have devastating effects on residents' health, and can also negatively impact various recreational and business activities. The Greens believe that every resident should be able to live free of noise and air pollution, and that aircraft noise can cause serious harm, constituting both an environmental issue and a public health and safety risk.

Brisbane Airport Corporation has treated Brisbane residents with contempt, and Airservices Australia has allowed them to do so. In spite of constant pressure from Brisbane residents and the Greens, BAC has ruthlessly pursued profit at the expense of everything else.

The Greens broadly support all demands outlined by the Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance in its letter dated 18 January. Since their election in 2022, Brisbane-based federal Greens MPs Max Chandler-Mather, Stephen Bates and Elizabeth Watson-Brown have been using their positions to elevate residents' concerns regarding flight noise, and have introduced a bill to the Australian parliament to mandate a noise curfew and a cap on flights (currently this bill is supported by all Greens MPs, but is not supported by Labor or Liberal MPs).

I wish to emphasise that Greens local government candidates do not support an approach of simply shifting noise pollution impacts from one community or region to another through minor adjustments to flight paths. Our ultimate goal is to achieve an overall reduction in the number of flights using Brisbane's airports, and a complete ban on night-time flights between 10pm and 6am (with exemptions for emergencies).

A Greens-controlled Brisbane City Council would use the council's seats on the Brisbane Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group and Archerfield Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group to advocate for the community's interests regarding aircraft noise pollution.

A Greens-controlled council would pass motions in support of a federally legislated curfew and flight cap at Brisbane Airport, and would use all available avenues – including formal submissions, representations to ministers and government agencies, and co-organising public forums and community assemblies – to elevate and advance the community's demands for an

urgent re-design of Brisbane's airspace, a legislated curfew, a flight cap, and a Long-term Operating Plan that meets the community's needs.

The Greens support using Brisbane City Council resources to commission an independent study into the impacts of flight noise to build the case for mandating noise limits.

The Greens completely oppose the gag orders that Brisbane Airport Corporation is demanding of proposed new housing developments under flight paths. People need to be able to speak up against massive corporations that are profiting at the expense of residents' welfare. It is completely inappropriate to seek to impose limitations on residents' free speech by virtue of development approval processes and property and land title covenants.

The Greens share the BFPCA's concerns about air taxis and low-flying delivery drones. We don't believe private air taxis are an efficient, sustainable or equitable mode of urban transport, and suggest that governments and political decision-makers should instead focus on improving the city's public transport network, rather than allowing the mega-rich to fly above congested traffic. We would not support private air taxis operating in Brisbane's metropolitan areas at all.

The Greens also want to introduce stronger regulation and privacy protections around the use of delivery drones. There are some limited use cases where delivery drones might be preferable to the use of traditional delivery vans, but any such uses would need to be very carefully limited to ensure there are no negative impacts in terms of noise, amenity, privacy or disruption to wildlife. We are concerned about the proliferation of private delivery drones in the Ipswich and Logan local government areas, and believe that the impacts to residents who live immediately beside major drone delivery hubs have not been properly considered or mitigated.

A Greens-led council would support declaring Brisbane Airport a leviable airport under the *Aircraft Noise Levy Act 1995* in order to facilitate imposing and collecting aircraft noise levies which could be used to compensate affected communities. If elected mayor, I would advocate that any compensation funds would be best utilised to directly mitigate the impacts of aircraft noise pollution (such as by funding installation of acoustic insulation), rather than as cash payments to individual property owners. We would resist any suggestion that compensation payouts are a satisfactory substitute for curfews and flight caps, and would not support compensation packages being used to justify delaying further action to address flight noise.

Residents who are concerned about flight noise will have a clear choice in the upcoming city council elections. Labor and LNP councillors support more flights at Brisbane airport and have shown themselves to be uninterested in addressing flight noise concerns, whereas the Greens are taking a strong and unambiguous position in standing up against flight noise pollution.

If you have further questions about our position on aircraft noise, you're welcome to email me at [office@jonathansri.com](mailto:office@jonathansri.com) or to reach out to your local Greens council candidate.

Warm regards,

**Jonathan Sriranganathan**

Greens Candidate for Mayor of Brisbane

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