

# Michael Berkman MP Member for Maiwar





22 August 2024

Prof. Marcus Foth Chair, Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance (BFPCA) Via email: contact@bfpca.org.au

### **Queensland State Election 2024: BFPCA Report Card**

Dear Prof. Foth,

Thank you for your letter of 7 August 2024, setting out BFPCA's priorities ahead of the 2024 state election.

The Queensland Greens' overall plan for Queensland is set out here. The election initiatives we have already announced are listed towards the bottom of that page, with more to be added on an almost weekly basis until the election.

The Greens have been proud to stand alongside those communities adversely affected by flight noise pollution, including our federal colleagues, Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP, Stephen Bates MP, and Max Chandler-Mather MP, tabling a private member's bill to implement hourly caps on flights, a night curfew on non-emergency flights over Brisbane homes and plans to move more flights over the water rather than over the city. The Greens at all levels will continue to advocate for measures to mitigate noise pollution and other impacts from flights over Brisbane.

We support your election priorities, and will use our parliamentary power as follows:

### 1. Support for a curfew and flight cap

The Queensland Greens will use all available avenues to advocate for the Greater Brisbane community's demands for significant net noise reductions at Brisbane Airport and Archerfield Airport, including:

Moving a motion in the Queensland Parliament in support of a federally legislated curfew and flight cap at Brisbane Airport.

- Leveraging state government relationships, political influence and communications channels to advocate for net noise reductions at the federal level.
- Providing submissions and representations to relevant government agencies and the federal Minister for Transport and Infrastructure for an urgent re-design of Brisbane's airspace, a legislated curfew, a flight cap and a long-term operating plan.

Examples of the Greens' actions on this at the federal level include a Greens private member's bill to implement a curfew, flight cap and implement a long-term operating plan, which are all measures that have proven to be reasonable and work well in Sydney. We have also successfully instigated a Senate inquiry into aircraft noise, which is currently ongoing.

## 2. Prevent the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund from funding overnight flights

The Queensland Greens strongly disagree with the *Attracting Aviation Investment Fund* being used to subsidise flights arriving or departing from Brisbane Airport between 10pm and 6am.

Recently in Queensland parliament estimates hearings, Amy had the opportunity to ask the Tourism Minister questions about the use of the *Attracting Aviation Investment Fund* for late-night flights. Via this process, we learned that a huge proportion of overnight flights are subsidised by the Fund.

In fact, the Queensland Greens are committed to abolishing Queensland Labor's slush fund for multinational airlines, and scrapping the *Attracting Aviation Investment Fund* altogether.

As the Greens' candidate for McConnel, Holstein Wong, said in the <u>Courier-Mail on 8 August 2024</u>, the Greens would scrap this \$100 million fund, and put the money into public housing.

'Queensland taxpayers are getting fleeced by these big corporations, and now the Greens have revealed that about half of late night flights are taxpayer-funded,' she said.

'If you're getting woken up at night, then chances are Queensland Labor paid big corporations to make it happen.

Residents in McConnel and all over Brisbane need and deserve a flight curfew from 10pm to 6am at Brisbane airport. We could make a big start by immediately scrapping the \$100 million handouts to airline corporations.'

## 3. Commission independent studies into health harms

The Queensland Greens support the commissioning by Queensland Health of independent scientific studies into flight noise impacts in Greater Brisbane, with a view to establishing and mandating noise

limits. These studies will examine the harms caused to the health and wellbeing of Greater Brisbane residents, and the effects on medical, aged care and other community service facilities.

### 4. Commission independent studies into impacts on school children

As stated above, the Queensland Greens support the commissioning of independent studies into impacts on Greater Brisbane residents by Queensland Health.

The Queensland Greens want to see our state schools 100% fully funded so that Education Queensland can commission independent scientific studies into the impact of flight noise on children's cognition and learning abilities.

## 5. Ban all lead-based aircraft operations

The Queensland Greens will ban the use of leaded aviation gasoline in all aircraft across Queensland to protect public health and the environment.

#### 6. Oppose drone delivery services and air taxis without social licence

The Queensland Greens will oppose the introduction of drone delivery services and air taxis in Queensland without the establishment of proactive regulation, adequate oversight and social licence obtained via community input.

We will keep advocating for change, and look forward to having more Greens in Queensland parliament to continue to champion our position.

Kind regards,

Dr Amy MacMahon

Member for South Brisbane