



Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance, Inc.

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Ms Elizabeth Watson-Brown MP

Australian Greens Spokesperson on Infrastructure, Transport and Sustainable Cities

House of Representatives

PO Box 6022

Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: Elizabeth.Watson-Brown.MP@aph.gov.au

Brisbane, 11 April 2025

Aircraft Noise Crisis in Brisbane – Request for a Formal Greens Commitment

Dear Ms Watson-Brown

We write to you on behalf of Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance (BFPCA), a grassroots, volunteer-led organisation representing thousands of residents impacted by aircraft noise pollution across Greater Brisbane. Since the opening of the New Parallel Runway in July 2020, our communities have suffered from relentless, concentrated aircraft noise, degrading public health, disrupting sleep, devaluing properties, and diminishing our quality of life.

We are calling on the Australian Greens to explain how it will address community concerns regarding aircraft noise, particularly with respect to:

- The **implementation timeframes** for the 2024 Senate Inquiry recommendations.
- An urgent **amendment of your Ministerial Direction** to Airservices Australia issued 16 Sep 2024 to remove vague “operational conditions” that undermine noise mitigation.
- The **enforcement of quieter aircraft standards** (ICAO Chapter 14 / Stage 5) for all night operations at Brisbane Airport.

We seek a formal, public commitment from the Greens to the below community priorities. Please provide a “yes,” “no” or “partially” response and include an explanation for your party’s position for the following:

1. Fully Implement the 2024 Senate Inquiry Recommendations

- Introduce Continuous Descent and Climb Operations at Brisbane Airport (Rec 5)
- Require night-time aircraft to meet ICAO Chapter 14 noise standards (Rec 6)
- Declare Brisbane Airport a leviable airport and provide compensation (Rec 8 & 9)
- Conduct a full-scale airspace review for Greater Brisbane (Rec 13)
- Issue a revised Statement of Expectations for Airservices Australia (Rec 19)

2. Enact 2024 Aviation White Paper Reforms

- Establishing an independent Aircraft Noise Ombudsman,
- Implementing new ‘Flying Considerately’ guidance for pilots,
- Appointing an Airservices Australia executive for noise and environment,



- Improving land use planning around airports, and
- Requiring best-practice community consultation on flight path changes.

3. Legislate a Brisbane Airport Curfew Act

Legislate a Brisbane Airport Curfew Act to introduce a 10 pm – 6 am curfew, bringing Brisbane in line with Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne/Essendon, the Gold Coast, and major international airports.

4. Require a Brisbane Long-Term Operating Plan (LTOP)

Issue an immediate Ministerial Direction requiring Airservices Australia to develop a Brisbane Airport Long-Term Operating Plan (LTOP) that prioritises noise mitigation and equitable noise-sharing.

5. Cap Airport Growth via Capacity Declaration

Engage communities on an airport capacity declaration, as provided under the Airports Act 1996, Section 195, capping flights at Brisbane Airport to protect Brisbane families from unrestricted aircraft growth.

We also wish to alert you to a **formal complaint** BFPCA is preparing on behalf of Brisbane communities to be lodged with the **Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)**. This complaint will be based on evidence BFPCA has obtained through FOI that **Airservices Australia failed to comply with its environmental obligations under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)***. The complaint will draw particular attention to findings by the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman that Airservices was unable to demonstrate compliance with the EPBC Act when designing and implementing Brisbane's flight paths in 2018 – 2020.

This failure of environmental governance to adequately protect communities from the impact and harms caused by the aviation industry must not be allowed to continue. **BFPCA will disseminate your response to tens of thousands of voters across Greater Brisbane via our divisional nodes in Brisbane, Griffith, Ryan, Dickson, Moreton, Bonner, Bowman, and Longman.**

Sincerely,

Professor Marcus Foth PhD FACS CP FQA JP (Qual.) Qld
Chair, Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance, Inc.

About BFPCA

With the launch of Brisbane Airport's New Parallel Runway on 12 July 2020 came a new airspace design and flight paths that concentrate aircraft noise over densely populated residential areas. Brisbane Airport and Airservices Australia sold this project to Brisbane communities suggesting the New Parallel Runway will enable them to prioritise "over water" operations that direct planes away from residential areas. The CEO Gert-Jan de Graaff is on the record saying, "the net effect of aircraft flying over the city will decrease."

Brisbane families and communities are suffering from excessive noise pollution and associated health and related impacts from Brisbane Airport's new flight paths launched in July 2020. The Aircraft Noise Ombudsman report, the Brisbane Airport PIR Advisory Forum (BAPAF) and flight path design consultants TRAX International have all confirmed that Brisbane communities were misled using flawed noise modelling, deceiving community engagement, and offered inadequate noise abatements.

Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance (BFPCA) came together in 2020 to fight back on behalf of all Brisbane families and communities experiencing this noise pollution.

For more background information, visit: <https://bfpca.org.au/>

