



The Hon Catherine King MP

**Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat**

Professor Marcus Foth
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Dear Professor Foth

Thank you for your letter of 11 April 2025 seeking the Australian Labor Party's position regarding aircraft noise in Brisbane.

I understand the community concerns in relation to the noise impact of aircraft movements on residents in the vicinity of the airport and it is an issue the Albanese Government takes seriously.

The Liberals and Nationals built a new runway and set flight paths at Brisbane Airport without properly consulting with the community and Labor has been working hard to fix the problem.

Since coming to office, the Albanese Labor Government implemented a number of measures to reduce the impact of noise, including changes to the timing of flights and flight paths to minimise impacts on residential areas.

We continue to work through the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane, with one of the priorities being ensuring more flights over water where possible, and fewer over communities.

As you know, Airservices has limited the ability of some aircraft to take off over land during the early morning in Brisbane so that propeller planes and turboprops do not operate from the new runway before 6am and has boosted the number of flights that take off and land over water – known as SODPROPS – during the night and early mornings on weekends.

Each time SODPROPS is used, 290,000 to 500,000 fewer residents are directly overflown. We've increased the use of SODPROPS and plan to use that mode as much as possible.

Airservices has also reinstated the previous flight path used for over-water departures so that aircraft take off from the legacy runway instead of the new one, reducing overflight of Bribie Island, as well as increasing the number of aircraft flying over industrial areas when departing instead of residential communities.

Most recently, I have issued Airservices with a direction that will require it to develop and deliver procedures which will require the use of the SODPROPS during both day time and night time operations at Brisbane Airport, when meteorological conditions and other operational conditions, including traffic levels, allow. This will mean more planes over the water and fewer planes over communities.

Through the Aviation White Paper, we have taken even more steps to improve the responsiveness of airports, airlines and Airservices to noise concerns.

A re-elected Albanese Labor Government will create an independent ombuds scheme for aircraft noise that will have the power to conduct independent investigations into aircraft noise complaints, publish reports, and make recommendations directly to government about the handling of noise complaints, community consultation processes and other matters.

We will also appoint an Airservices executive for noise and environment to lead the agency's work on noise minimisation. This new role will have responsibility for engaging with affected communities and for ensuring the integration of noise minimisation measures in the operational decisions made by air traffic controllers.

Since coming to office, the Albanese Labor Government has worked with the community to manage and minimise community impacts. However, we have also consistently stated that we wouldn't make unrealistic promises. Rather, we are taking real action to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on residents in Brisbane without putting jobs at risk and damaging the economy of the great state of Queensland.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Catherine King MP

28/04/2025