



Office of the Hon Catherine King MP

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

Ref: MC26-002690

Prof. Marcus Foth
Chair
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via: contact@bfpca.org.au

Dear Mr Foth,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 February 2026 to the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, regarding the Brisbane Airport draft Master Plan 2026 (dMP). The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

Firstly, I wanted to note that the Minister has not yet made a decision whether to approve, or refuse to approve, the dMP under subsection 81(2) of the Airports Act.

As you have noted in your correspondence, a Master Plan is ultimately a strategic planning document. Most leased federal airports, including Brisbane Airport, are subject to a land-use planning framework outlined in the Airports Act, and the regulatory obligations within it.

An Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) is a matter that must be specified within a Master Plan, in accordance with subsection 71(2) of the Airports Act. It is intended to reflect the best estimate of future aircraft noise impacts, to help inform future land use planning decisions for the areas surrounding the airport. As you have noted, an ANEF does not necessarily reflect peoples' lived experience of aircraft noise.

This is why the *National Airports Safeguarding Framework Guideline A – Measures For Managing Impacts of Aircraft Noise* recognises the merit of utilising a range of noise measures and tools in conjunction with the ANEF system. The intention is to better inform strategic planning and to provide more comprehensive and understandable information on aircraft noise for communities, and ultimately why Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) (and most other airport-lessee companies) outline supplementary noise information within Master Plans.

The preliminary dMP, which is publicly available on BAC's website, included an ultimate capacity ANEF, which the preliminary dMP notes received technical endorsement by Airservices Australia (Airservices) on 28 July 2025. Supplementary noise information, such as the supplementary noise contours outlined in Figure 12.5 of the preliminary dMP, do not form part of the ANEF, and as such are not reviewed by Airservices as part of this technical endorsement process.

The preliminary dMP also notes that “*the Aviation Environment Design Tool (AEDT) used to develop the ANEF has been calibrated using two years of actual flight and noise data from the new operations and flight paths introduced with the opening of the western runway. This has ensured modelled behaviour closely matches real world conditions. This calibration was not possible prior to the western runway opening and new aircraft fleet variants entering service.*”

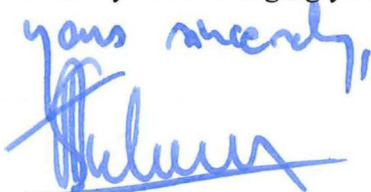
The ANEF included in the preliminary dMP does not take into account potential future flight path changes being considered under the *Noise Action Plan for Brisbane*, as decisions around whether these flight path changes will be implemented have not yet been made by Airservices.

In implementing the *Noise Action Plan for Brisbane*, Airservices is focussed on considering opportunities to improve airspace operations around Brisbane Airport and mitigate noise impacts on surrounding communities. Updates on implementation of the *Noise Action Plan for Brisbane* will continue to be published on the *Noise Action Plan for Brisbane* website at engage.airservicesaustralia.com/nap4b.

Neither Airservices’ technical endorsement of an ANEF, nor the Minister’s approval of a dMP in which an ANEF is so specified, would reflect a change in flight path or airspace operations relevant for the purposes of Airservices’ *Flight Path Design Principles*, or a proposed action requiring referral under section 161 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

I note that when Airservices is considering a change in flight path or airspace operations, the EPBC Act and *Flight Path Design Principles* require that consideration be given to whether referral is required under section 161 of the EPBC Act.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Minister’s attention.

Yours sincerely,


Joseph Solomon

Chief of Staff

24/3 / 2026