



Labor



Terri Butler MP

Shadow Minister for the Environment and Water
Member for Griffith

Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: Barnaby.Joyce.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Deputy Prime Minister,

I refer to:

- correspondence I received from Airservices Australia yesterday afternoon, stating they were opening registrations for community information sessions for the *Brisbane Airport New Parallel Runway Flight Paths Post Implementation Review*;
- the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development's letter to Airservices Australia of 17 June 2021 calling for the Review to provide easily accessible community engagement for a broad range of residents; and
- my letters to you of 25 June, 16 July, 2 August and 11 August 2021 in which I called for, among other things, a public meeting to be held about aircraft noise, and my various other letters to the former Deputy Prime Minister about aircraft noise; and
- your letter to me received on 24 August 2021.

In yesterday afternoon's correspondence, Airservices Australia advised that its community information sessions for the Review are being held next week.

These sessions are being advertised on very short notice for dates that fall within the school holidays. This is not good enough, and it undermines the Review's credibility.

So, as the Minister responsible, I ask that you step in and fix this. Additional sessions should be held, outside the school holidays, on dates for which at least two weeks' notice can be given.

Background to this request

You will recall that in my letter of 16 July I asked you to arrange for the relevant regulators, the Brisbane Airport Corporation, and a representative of the government, to hold a public meeting that includes an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and receive answers. In response, in your letter of 24 August, you said:

"Airservices will be holding public meetings to inform the PIR process. These meetings will also provide opportunity for community members from your electorate to raise their concerns and feedback on aircraft operations at Brisbane Airport."

This falls short of my request, which I now reiterate.

**ON YOUR
SIDE.**

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Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

In the meantime, though, my community deserves a proper opportunity to raise concerns and give feedback in the Airservices Australia review process. Holding two sessions at short notice in the school holidays does not provide a proper opportunity. Residents, who are already frustrated and sceptical, will see this as your government skipping out on real community engagement. If engagement is poor, that will undermine the Review's credibility.

Other matters relating to aircraft noise

As you know I have spoken in the Parliament to call on your government to address aircraft noise. I have also made a number of written representations asking what action your government intends to take to mitigate aircraft noise.

Locally, Cr Kara Cook, Hon Di Farmer MP and I have also run a [petition](#) calling on you "to state, in non-technical terms, what options are available to reduce noise in our local suburbs" and to "implement any measures reasonably available to reduce noise, subject always to safety requirements." We have called on your government to:

- provide a full, plain English response to the several [community-led proposals](#) in relation to aircraft noise; and
- deal with the gap in aircraft noise measurement by adding an additional noise monitor at a high elevation in either Hawthorne or Balmoral, to complement the existing monitors (including at Bulimba and Cannon Hill).

Additionally, I reiterate that my fellow federal Labor MPs and I have called on the Morrison-Joyce Government to **establish a strong, independent, permanent Airport Community Forum for Brisbane residents**. It should:

- deal with aircraft noise abatement and related environmental issues and have access to necessary data and technical expertise;
- have broad representation of all areas affected by airport operations;
- be designed to avoid any perception of or susceptibility to industry capture, including by regulators, aviation companies, or the airport operator.

Too often communities feel frustrated by buck-passing, or by technical jargon and data that just leads to less clarity and more confusion. We need transparent, permanent, timely and clear data, that is representative of the lived experience of noise for residents in impacted areas, right across my community.

Residents who have been affected by noise, whether from the original runway or the new one, want clarity, action, and a fair go.

So, I look forward to hearing from you in relation to the matters above, and particularly the pressing matter of the Airservices Australia community information sessions. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 3397 1674 or by email at Terri.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au.

Yours faithfully,



Terri Butler MP
Member for Griffith
15 September 2021