



**The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP**

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**Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for New England**

Ref: MC21-008173

**21 SEP 2021**

Ms Terri Butler MP  
Member for Griffith  
PO Box 737  
COORPAROO QLD 4151

Dear Ms Butler *Terri,*

Thank you for your letter of 15 September 2021 regarding the Post Implementation Review of flight paths and airspace changes at Brisbane Airport being conducted by Airservices Australia (Airservices).

I note your concerns regarding the notice period and timing of proposed community consultation sessions. I have referred your concerns to Airservices and they have provided me with the following advice.

Airservices has advised me that it is conducting a Post Implementation Review (the Review) of the flight paths and airspace changes associated with the operation of Brisbane Airport's new parallel runway, which opened in July 2020.

This Review is being undertaken in two phases. The first phase is reviewing COVID-19 affected operations and the second phase is reviewing post COVID-19 operations after a return to stabilised air traffic movements. It is expected the Review will be completed in 18 to 24 months and will include multiple opportunities for community engagement activity.

The first stage of the Review is yet to commence with community consultation currently focussing on seeking input on the draft Terms of Reference (ToR).

**COVID impacts on proposed community engagement on draft Terms of Reference**

I am advised that Airservices is currently undertaking community consultation on the draft ToR to ensure the community understands the proposed scope of the Review and has an opportunity to provide input.

The draft ToR was released on Airservices website on 30 July 2021 for community feedback. The community sessions that were planned to be held in August to discuss the draft ToR, respond to questions and receive input, had to be cancelled due to a Queensland Government imposed lockdown of Brisbane early that month.

Airservices had received feedback from some members of the community requesting these community sessions be held as soon as possible to avoid delays in finalising the ToR and the commencement of the actual Review itself. This feedback was factored into Airservices considerations. Airservices determined it would reschedule the community sessions from August to September after the first round of feedback from the community on the draft ToR was completed.

Community feedback on the draft ToR closed on 5 September 2021 with 136 submissions received. The proposed September community sessions were expected to provide an opportunity for Airservices to share the feedback it had received, and address issues contained in the submissions. When advising of the proposed community sessions, Airservices acknowledged it would not normally conduct engagement over school holidays but that a range of options for participation would be provided, including in-person attendance, live streaming of sessions, and review of video recordings of the event. It was determined that holding these initial sessions in September would ensure that the draft ToR for the Review could be finalised to allow the formal process to commence in October 2021. This proposed timeline would allow initial consultations with the community to be held prior to the Christmas school holiday period.

#### **Response to concerns with timing of meetings (shift from September to October)**

Following concerns received from yourself and the Brisbane Flight Path Community Alliance (BFPCA) about the proposed timing and school holidays as well as the notice period, Airservices responded quickly and agreed to reschedule the meetings to October 2021. This provides people with more notice, time to prepare and avoids potential conflicts with school holidays.

In determining this course of action, Airservices also consulted with Mr David Diamond representing BFPCA. It was acknowledged that delaying the community meetings to October was a reasonable compromise noting this would prolong the finalisation of the ToR and result in the Review itself being delayed.

Airservices has therefore confirmed the community meetings will now take place in the week commencing 11 October 2021. The meetings will be held at a number of different locations to allow communities across Brisbane to participate in the consultation process. Additional sessions may be scheduled due to the current public health orders restricting the number of participants consistent with COVID-19 protocols. Venues are currently being confirmed and information will be provided to the community a minimum of two weeks prior to the meetings through the Airservices *Engage* website. Should people not be able to attend in person on the day, options such as live streaming and video recording of sessions will also be available.

### Next steps

Following the community sessions in October, Airservices will seek to finalise the Terms of Reference within four weeks and commence the Review in December 2021 by providing noise and operations information for community review with formal feedback requested in the new year.

I am informed that Airservices recognises the technical nature of this work and will be ensuring all information is presented in a community-friendly format. There is no expectation that the community need to acquire airspace design knowledge to participate. Airservices has invested in community engagement experts who are accredited under the International Association for Public Participation which is recognised as the international standard for community engagement. These experts will assist members of the community understand the scope in non-technical terms.

The Review will seek to understand where operations are different to what was expected, what operations are causing concern, and to consider any specific suggestions the community would like to put forward. This is consistent with Airservices Flight Path Design Principles and the aim of the Review, which is to identify options that might improve noise outcomes where operationally safe and feasible to do so. Where an option or idea put forward by the community cannot be implemented, a detailed and transparent outcome is shared with the community, firstly in workshop format to allow discussions and questioning of the decision, and then in written report format, including a community review period.

Should you require further information on the Airservices Review, Mr Paul Stoddart, Head of Government Relations at Airservices Australia can be contacted at

or

In view of the concerns about aircraft noise in the Brisbane community, I am separately establishing an advisory forum to ensure the community can have confidence in the Airservices Review. The Brisbane Airport Post Implementation Review (PIR) Advisory Forum will be an independent, community-focused stakeholder group to provide feedback and input to the Airservices Review process and an independent view on the Airservices Review findings.

The Forum will consist of a small, closed membership of independent experts and community representatives. I will be announcing the establishment of the Forum in coming weeks and will write to you separately with further details shortly.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this important issue.

Yours sincerely



Barnaby Joyce MP