

Australian Business Aviation Association Inc. ABN 32 082 750 492

9 Guthrie Ave

Cremorne NSW 2090

T 02 9953 0363 and 0413 994 757

E david.bell@flyabaa.com

W www.abaa.com.au

10th October 2017

Proposed amendments to the Air Navigation (Essendon Airport) Regulations 2001

The ABAA appreciates the opportunity to provide the following submission to the Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

Preliminary comments

Essendon Airport is a significant national asset, with over 60 turbine powered business, charter, special mission and aeromedical aircraft based there. Also, the airport is utilised by regional airlines and emergency service operators and visiting business aircraft from Australia and overseas.

Currently, jet operations are not permitted during the curfew from 11pm to 6am, with the exception of medical emergencies. The ABAA supports a small number of other jet aircraft movements being permitted during the curfew.

ABAA responses to three potential amendments to the Regulations:

1. Lifting the permitted weight limit for jet aircraft from 45,000kgs to 55,000kgs for operators during non-curfew hours.

The ABAA agrees to this amendment and we agree with the rationale provided in the Public Consultation Paper. All business jet aircraft certified since 2006 are required to be ICAO Chapter 4 noise compliant and many of these aircraft have a maximum takeoff weight (MTOW) between 45,000kgs and 55,000kgs. Increased MTOW enables the aircraft to fly longer distances with improved fuel efficiency.

2. Removing the ability of non-emergency helicopters and propeller driven aircraft to operate during the curfew.

The ABAA agrees to this amendment even though some low MTOW turbo-prop aircraft may be considered sufficiently low noise to be permitted to operate during the curfew.

3. Allowing jet aircraft, which meet strict noise criteria to land during the curfew.

Several business jet types based at Essendon Airport were certified prior to 2006. These aircraft are ICAO Chapter 3 noise compliant and are permitted to operate at airports around the world including Sydney and Adelaide during curfew periods.

Chapter 3 noise compliant jets are permitted to operate at noise levels up to 98 decibels on landing. An ABAA survey of Chapter 3 compliant business jets, which are based at Essendon, has shown that these aircraft are certified with noise levels between 85.7 and 93.3 decibels on landing.

The ABAA recommends that jet aircraft with a MTOW of no more than 55,000kgs and with ICAO Chapter 4 noise certification, be permitted to operate at Essendon during the curfew. Also, we recommend that jet aircraft with a MTOW of no more than 45,000kgs and with ICAO Chapter 3 noise certification, be permitted to operate at Essendon during the curfew.

Also, the ABAA recommends that serious consideration be given to conducting a 12 month trial period of low noise jet aircraft operations at Essendon Airport during the curfew. Movement numbers with aircraft types, dates, times and community comment could be recorded and assessed.

Also, the ABAA and several of our Essendon based members, would be pleased to meet with Departmental officers, Essendon Airport management, political representatives and community representatives to discuss the way forward.

David Bell OAM
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Business Aviation Association Inc.
10th October 2017