



## **Aviation Green Paper 2023**

### **Submission From East Melbourne Group November 2023**

This submission is on behalf of the East Melbourne Group (EMG), an incorporated association, representing a community of about 5,000 people in one of Melbourne's most densely populated suburbs.

The aviation impacts on our community are experienced by other inner Melbourne suburbs, the residents of which share our concerns.

EMG is part of an Australia-wide group of concerned communities, the Community Aviation Alliance Australia and the key issues of concern to us have been raised in that Group's submission, which we endorse.

EMG is also represented on the CACG for Melbourne Airport and endorses the submission made by that body.

We stress that EMG recognises the importance of aviation and airports as a significant economic contributor to our national economy. We are not anti-aviation, but we consider that the current way in which the sector is regulated, does not place sufficient emphasis on the human impact of the industry's operations. Like any major industry, there is an obligation for the human and health impacts of that industry to be ameliorated and the current governmental system is biased towards industry interests, at the expense of community impacts.

In particular, we urge that:

Changes are made to the regulatory system to ensure that the human health impact of aircraft operations is recognised and appropriately mitigated through more appropriate provisions in legislation, balancing this with the benefits of safety and efficiency

The cost to affected residents and businesses of aviation operations is acknowledged and appropriate level of financial compensation is provided

Aviation regulators are made accountable for managing the human health impact of aircraft operations and appropriately

Independent oversight of the Commonwealth aviation regulators is established with respect to decisions by the regulators, air traffic control provider, Commonwealth departments and airport lessees which affect aircraft operations that impact communities. An Ombudsman that is independent, appropriately resourced and reports to the Parliament

In summary, the White Paper must focus more on a framework that puts the community on an equal footing with industry in the development and conduct of aviation.