

## The Hon Catherine King MP

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

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Dear Mr Ferguson

I will shortly release the Australian Government's Aviation White Paper, which will set out the Government's policies to support the next generation of growth and innovation in the aviation sector to 2050.

The White Paper will include new policy initiatives to improve the processes for planning and development on and around Australia's leased federal airports, including Moorabbin Airport. The Government aims to support the efficient and productive use of airport sites, meet the needs of airport users, and minimise the impact of airport operations on nearby communities and the environment.

To this end, the Government will amend the *Airports Regulations 2024* to require airport master plans and major development plans (MDPs) to include additional information about how development of the airport will:

- support appropriate access for people with disability
- minimise carbon emissions
- enhance resilience to climate impacts
- address the requirements of the National Airport Safeguarding Framework.

In addition to these new regulatory requirements, I am writing to advise you that – in deciding whether to approve future master plans and MDPs for leased federal airports – I intend to have regard to:

- the appropriateness of the airport's community consultation processes, including consultation with First Nations people and, where developments involve changes to flight paths, consistency with the Airservices Australia 2023 Community Engagement Standard
- how the airport will build and maintain resilience to climate impacts
- the suitability of the airport's sustainability and decarbonisation initiatives
- whether the airport's disability access arrangements comply with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and relevant disability standards

whether appropriate access to the airport site has been provided for General Aviation users, consistent with the requirements of the *Airports Act 1996* that I must have regard to 'the extent to which carrying out the plan would meet present and future requirements of civil aviation users of the airport ... for services and facilities relating to the airport concerned.'

For master plans or MDPs that involve new or changed runways, I also intend to have regard to the suitability of the airport's plans for noise mitigation.

I encourage you to review the Aviation White Paper, which includes 56 new policy initiatives addressing matters including: consumer protection; disability access; competition; skills and workforce; decarbonisation; regional connectivity; General Aviation; airport planning and noise; safety, security and airspace regulation; new aviation technology; and international aviation.

Yours sincerely

Catherine King MP

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