

20 December 2023

The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board (AAB) – Community Representative views on SODPROPS

Thank you for your letter of 27 October 2023 in response to matters raised by AAB community members that are outside the AAB Terms of Reference. I have noted your advice, and will work to ensure the AAB remains within its Terms of Reference.

Your letter also sought advice from the AAB as to whether Simultaneous Opposite Direction Parallel Runway Operations (SODPROPS) should be designated as the preferred operating mode at Brisbane Airport, when safety, traffic levels and weather constraints allow, and whether Airservices Australia (Airservices) should take action to this effect.

The matter was discussed at the AAB meeting of 22 November 2023. AAB community members referred to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the New Parallel Runway (NPR) at Brisbane Airport, which noted the benefit of SODPROPS and accordingly expected SODPROPS would be implemented as a priority. AAB community members recognise that designating SODPROPS as the preferred operating mode will not remove all aircraft overflight of Brisbane communities due to operational limitations, and it is therefore important that the ongoing work under the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane continues. There was a strong view from community members in favour of SODPROPS as the preferred operating mode at Brisbane Airport.

AAB community members emphasised the importance of minimising the impact of SODPROPS on communities not previously affected and agreed that Airservices should continue to work through the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane to maximise the height at which aircraft travelling on SODPROPS flight paths turn back over the coastline where this is necessary.

At the same time, the community is keen to see more detailed information on the expected impacts and benefits that SODPROPS would have on the community, its likely practical operation times and reporting on the actual operation times.

In this regard, I understand Airservices is currently progressing consideration of a number of options through the Noise Action Plan for Brisbane that could enable greater use of SODPROPS when traffic levels, safety and weather allow, as well as options to increase aircraft height when departing over water before turning back over land.

I trust this advice is of assistance and thank you for your consultation with the AAB on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Brent', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ron Brent

Chair

Brisbane Airport Community Airspace Advisory Board