

Inquiry into the impact and mitigation of aircraft noise Melbourne Airport Opening Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today.

At the outset, Melbourne Airport acknowledges the impact aircraft noise can have on communities living near airports and under flight paths.

Melbourne Airport continues to engage with these communities, Airservices Australia, government agencies, airlines and other industry stakeholders to better manage the impact of aircraft noise.

Last week, Minister King approved the Major Development Plan for our third runway which will secure 51,000 jobs and add almost \$6 billion to the state economy every year.

As part of the approval, Melbourne Airport will establish one of the most comprehensive brownfields noise attenuation programs in Australian aviation history.

This program will be delivered for the residential dwellings as well as childcare and education facilities most affected by aircraft noise and will be developed in consultation with local councils, communities, state and federal government agencies.

We recognise the effects of the airport's operations extend well beyond our boundary and are committed to improving the lives of people who live in surrounding communities.

With respect to aircraft noise, we listen and engage with local stakeholders through our longstanding Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) that meets quarterly.

Every four to six weeks we hold community pop ups to create awareness about our operations. We mail out newsletters to more than a million households to provide project updates and host an online visitor portal to keep the community informed about major developments at Melbourne Airport.

We've also acted on feedback from the community by installing our own noise monitors in the local community and we publish data on aircraft movements and runway usage monthly on our website.

Aviation is an essential service in Australia. Airports help connect Australians to each other and the world as well as opening up markets across the world for Australian businesses and exporters to transport time-sensitive freight such as fresh produce and meat products.

Similarly, the importation of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and vaccines into Victoria is vital for those who need it most.

We also recognise the millions of travellers who rely on our infrastructure each year and the local job opportunities the precinct provides for more than 18,000 workers at the airport.

As the main gateway to Victoria, a vital contributor to the economy and supporter of competition in the aviation sector, it is essential that Melbourne Airport's operations are safeguarded.

We endorse the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) Balanced Approach to aircraft noise management and believe it should form the basis on which aircraft noise continues to be managed in Australia.

We also believe there is a need for greater independent research into the benefits and impacts of existing noise abatement procedures.

We are committed to working collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders in effectively managing and minimising the impacts of aircraft noise, especially in communities in the vicinity of Melbourne Airport or those under flight paths leading to or from the airport.

We once again thank you for the opportunity to appear today and we welcome your questions.