

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
Committee Inquiry Question on Notice
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Impact and mitigation of aircraft noise

IQ24-000068

Division/Agency: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 46 (20 September 2024)

Topic: Government priorities: Carbon Emission Reduction and Community Noise Management

Matthew Canavan asked:

CHAIR: I will just go back to my original question, and I'm happy to take this on notice. What are the government's priorities? What's more important: reducing carbon emission or reducing noise on local communities?

Ms Werner: The government is already taking into account noise impacts, through the master plan and major development plan process.

CHAIR: Take it on notice and ask your minister what's more important.

Ms Werner: Okay. I'm happy to take it on notice.

CHAIR: It's a very simple question. What's more important? Are they equally important? Is one more important than the other? That's all I want to know. Thank you

Answer:

The Australian Government's aviation priority is safeguarding the community as well as ensuring the current and future safety, viability and growth of aviation operations at Australian airports. This is achieved through balanced consideration of policy, legislative and regulatory requirements.

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IQ24-000071

Division/Agency: DIV - Domestic Aviation and Reform

Hansard Reference: Spoken, Page No. 62-63 (20 September 2024)

Topic: Advice provided to the Minister regarding Melbourne Airport health impacts

Steph Hodgins-May asked:

Senator HODGINS-MAY: So, just to clarify, it was just Melbourne Airport's commissioned report that was considered in relation to health impacts—no external other ones?

Mrs Nattey: That's right.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Are you able to provide any information about what advice the department provided to the minister in relation to health impacts?

Mrs Nattey: I don't have that information with me, Senator. I'm happy to take your question on notice.

Senator HODGINS-MAY: Yes, that would be great, thank you.

Answer:

Appendix 4 of the Supplementary Report to the Melbourne Airport Third Runway (M3R) draft Major Development Plan (dMDP) includes copies of all submissions received through the formal consultation process undertaken by APAM.

Copies of all 2,128 submissions submitted to the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Catherine King MP by APAM on 10 February 2023 included a submission from Brimbank City Council (Reference: Appendix 4p of the Supplementary Report to the dMDP).

- Brimbank City Council provided a Health Risk Assessment of Melbourne Airport's Third Runway MDP to support its submission to the public exhibition process.
- The Health Risk Assessment it commissioned is based on the Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region 2018 by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Part 4 of the Supplementary Report to the dMDP submitted to the Minister provides an analysis of the submissions received, including Brimbank City Council's.
- Part 5 of the Supplementary Report provides further discussion on each identified issue, APAM's response to the issues and, where relevant, any changes made to the dMDP in recognition of the issues raised.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts provided advice to the minister under Section 94 of the *Airports Act 1996* (the Act). Section 94(3) details the matters the minister must have regard to in deciding whether to approve a draft major development plan.

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Under Section 94(3)(d) of the Act, the minister must have regard to the consultations undertaken by the Airport Lessee Company in preparing the plan (including the outcome of the consultations).

- The department provided advice on Australia Pacific Airports Melbourne's (APAM) response to public submissions on the potential health impacts of Melbourne Airport's third runway.

Under Section 94(7) of the Act, the minister may approve a draft major development plan subject to one or more conditions.

- The department provided advice to the minister on the condition for APAM to conduct a Community Health Study.
- For the first 20 years of the third runway operations, a report has to be submitted annually to the Melbourne Airport Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) on each community health impact associated with the operations of the third runway.