



17 April 2024

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Via email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au
cc. seniorclerk.committees.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Inquiry into the Impact and mitigation of aircraft noise

NORTH Link is the pre-eminent organisation representing – and advocating for – economic development in northern metropolitan Melbourne. Members span the education, health, research, industry and government sectors, all with a shared desire to attract and create jobs, innovation, investment and opportunity in Melbourne's North.

One in five Melburnians live in Melbourne's North – around one million people. In the 10 years to 2016, the region's population grew by 200,000. Pre-pandemic projections show that by 2036, the region's population will rise from 1 million to 1.5 million, more than the current population of Adelaide.

Jobs will be required for these new residents, and Melbourne Airport is a major job generator for local people.

This submission is informed by NORTH Link's members and partners/supporters and seeks to outline the importance of Melbourne Airport's 24/7, curfew free operations to the economic prosperity of Melbourne's North.

The value of Melbourne Airport

Melbourne Airport is the region's largest employer with key industrial precincts located to its south and east. The Melbourne Airport will continue to play an important role in providing for a range of aviation and non-aviation uses. East and south of the airport are established precincts, that combined with the Tullamarine and Keilor Park Industrial Precinct, form a large cluster of industrial land located adjacent to the airport, that support a range of transport and logistics, wholesale trade and other sectors that require easy access to the airport.

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Melbourne's Northern Economic Wedge Inc. (trading as NORTH Link)
Australian Registered Body Number (ARBN) - 669 523 086
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Place of origin: Victoria

Under section 52(1) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC), except as provided in its rules, a member of NORTH Link is not liable to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the association or any costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association.

This premier logistics and warehousing hub is home to tenants such as DHL, Toll IPEC and TNT Express. Melbourne Airport Business Park provides only leasehold property. The 410ha business park comprises a mix of large and small lots. Businesses positioned at Melbourne Airport benefit from: the city's largest airfreight terminal, 24/7 curfew free flight operations, fast track planning process and bespoke buildings.

Melbourne Airport is one of the primary employment precincts for Melbourne's north-west and directly employs more than 18,000 employees, and indirectly supports a further 146,000 jobs. As an economic hub located in Melbourne's north-west, the airport contributes more than \$17.7 billion in Gross Value Added to the Victorian economy through its own activities as well as the facilitation of key industries such as freight and logistics, tourism and international education.

Crucially for NORTH Link and its members, Melbourne airport also supports an extensive freight network moving high-value, time sensitive items inclusive of agriculture and lifesaving pharmaceuticals. In FY23, more than 205 million tonnes of airfreight worth almost \$22 billion passed through Melbourne Airport.

As the north-west of Melbourne continues to grow and the city as a whole takes the mantle as Australia's most populous, it will become even more vital that the Melbourne Airport precinct remains fit for purpose and is not inhibited in its efforts to bring much needed aviation capacity into the market and provide our increased population with employment.

Closing remarks

NORTH Link appreciates the significance of the impacts of aircraft noise on impacted communities in Melbourne's north-west and across Australia. Efforts to minimise the impact of aircraft noise are important and NORTH Link welcomes the efforts of the Committee in exploring options to do this.

However, any changes to the current system of regulations must appropriately consider the vital role that aviation plays, not only to our economy but in fostering social wellbeing and connectedness. Melbourne Airport plays a key role in this, and NORTH Link supports the efforts of Melbourne Airport as it continues to grow into the future to meet demand.

NORTH Link thanks the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport for the opportunity to provide this submission. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

Chris James
Executive Director