

OVERVIEW OF THE INQUIRY

Referral of the Inquiry

On 23 August 1999, the Senate referred an inquiry into the development of the Brisbane Airport Corporation's Master Plan to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by the last sitting day in November 1999¹.

On 24 November 1999 the Senate agreed to extend the time for presentation of the report until 17 February 2000.²

On Wednesday 16 February 2000 the Senate agreed to a further extension of time for presentation of the report until the last sitting day in April 2000 (13 April 2000).³

On Wednesday 10 May 2000 the date for the presentation of the report was further extended to 29 June 2000.⁴

Conduct of the Inquiry

The Inquiry was advertised in early September 1999. Advertisements were placed in the Courier Mail, the Australian (Friday aviation pages) and Quest Newspapers in Brisbane.

The Committee received 162 submissions on the reference. A list of the submissions appears in Appendix 1. The Committee also received approximately 1000 copies of a form letter from Brisbane residents, stating their concerns about the consultation process and the effects of aircraft noise.

Following referral of the Inquiry, the Committee held two public hearings. The first hearing was held in Brisbane on 15 November 1999 and the second was held in Canberra on 10 December 1999.

The *Hansard* of the hearings are available at the Hansard site on the Parliament House homepage on the Internet (www.aph.gov.au).

The Committee took evidence from 28 witnesses, including representatives of residents' groups, members of parliament, tourism organisations and industry groups. The Committee also took evidence from the Department of Transport and Regional

1 *Journals of the Senate*, 23 August 1999.

2 *Journals of the Senate*, 24 November 1999.

3 *Journals of the Senate*, 16 February 2000.

4 *Journals of the Senate*, 10 May 2000.

Services, Airservices Australia and the Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited. A full list of witnesses appears at Appendix 2.

The Committee also held a public forum in Brisbane on Tuesday 16 November 1999. The purpose of the public forum was to allow individuals and community groups to put their views to the Committee in a less formal setting. The forum was attended by approximately 180 people and the Committee heard resident's experiences in relation to the effects of aircraft noise, and their concerns about the consultation process undertaken by Brisbane Airport Corporation during the development of the Master Plan.

The Committee acknowledges the contribution of all those individuals and organisations who prepared written submissions, those who appeared as witnesses and those who attended the public forum.