

BERNARD FAHEY

BALMORAL QLD 4171

SUBMISSION – AIRCRAFT NOISE ENQUIRY

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am a long-time resident of Balmoral, my wife and I purchased our home in 1996 and have raised our two sons in this lovely pocket of Brisbane. We have enjoyed many years living in our home, meeting new friends and spending time with family and friends enjoying the outdoor spaces which I myself have built over the years. My wife and I love our old Queenslander home with its great location to Oxford Street with theatres, cafes, restaurants beautiful parks, and its proximity to the city and river.

Our once happy and peaceful life has now been obliterated with low, loud and frequent aircraft arriving and departing directly overhead. I operate my business from home and it is virtually impossible to sustain a pleasant working environment with constant interruptions while I am making phone calls, even worse when I am conducting teams' meetings, I have to pause the phone calls and meetings while an aircraft roars overhead, on a bad day this can be every 2-3 minutes.

My mental health has declined during the past 3 years, suffering anxiety, stress, agitation and depression brought about by lack of concentration and sleep deprivation. My relationship with my wife has also suffered as the aggravation caused by this constant noise becomes very draining on each other, the aircraft noise is a constant in our lives and it's taking its toll. We are constantly reaching for the TV remote, switching the volume up and down as a plane flies overhead.

The cleaning and maintenance in our home is non-stop, the inside surfaces get so filthy and need to be continually wiped over, the roof and outdoor areas are forever covered in a blackish 'soot', all I'm sure is a result of the fall out from the overhead aircraft.

We are living in anticipation of when the next barrage of planes might be about to hit, always on edge, and some of these planes are so low we can clearly see the writing on the undercarriage. I believe the flight paths are several kilometers wide so why does plane after plane, some only 90 seconds apart, fly directly above our home, even if they deviated 100 metres either side we would get some reprieve, but they seem to be following a particular landmark as there is no deviation, just directly above on the exact same route.

I believe we should be able to live in a comfortable environment which is a basic human right in a developed country like Australia, and the idea of soundproofing is not an option for us living in an old Queenslander, and why should we have to lock ourselves inside to avoid the noise especially living in Queensland, we should be enjoying the beautiful amenity we have worked so hard to achieve.

What are the plans moving forward to alleviate the noise and air pollution? I believe the following should be seriously considered and implemented and not in 5-10 years time, NOW!!

1. OVER THE BAY OPERATIONS FOR BOTH INCOMING & OUTGOING FLIGHTS
2. A SENSIBLE CHANGE TO CURRENT FLIGHT PATHS
3. A CURFEW FROM 10PM – 6AM
4. A CAP ON FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF BRISBANE
5. RE OPEN THE OLD CROSS RUNWAY.

All of this aircraft noise and pollution has come about since the New Parallel Runway opened in June 2020, and the first I knew about the flight paths was when the first plane flew overhead, without any consultation/notification from BAC, ASA or anyone else, this is so wrong on so many levels.

Bernard Fahey
15/4/2024