



MEDIA RELEASE

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Moorabbin Airport Master Plan Approved

Moorabbin Airport Corporation (MAC) welcomes the decision, by Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, to approve the Master Plan for Moorabbin Airport; because it creates certainty for the people who work and use the airport. Importantly, the Minister's approval also takes steps to address some of the concerns raised by local residents about aircraft noise and traffic, Phil McConnell, MAC General Manager said today.

"We are committed to the long term development of Moorabbin Airport as a vibrant aviation centre, and the Minister's approval of our 20 year Master Plan shows that the federal government shares this aim," Mr McConnell said.

"Approval of Moorabbin airport's Master Plan which included our proposed developments and growth forecasts, gives certainty for our customers and users of the airport.

"The Minister has acknowledged that Moorabbin Airport is a valuable asset in the economic and transport infrastructure of Victoria and both its aeronautical and non-aeronautical activities contribute to the local community to create jobs and economic activity.

"We will carefully examine the comments made by the Minister in giving his approval and will welcome the opportunity to engage more closely with both State and local government at a strategic level to consider the implications of metropolitan planning issues for airports," Mr McConnell said.

"In approving the plan the Minister has recognised that aircraft noise is a continuing area of concern within the local community. The Minister has asked MAC to coordinate further examination into aircraft noise issues by using the resources of the Department of Infrastructure, the State government, the aviation regulators, our airport customers, the City of Kingston and our local community."

“A new role of Aviation Noise Ombudsman is in the process of being set up within Airservices Australia,” Mr McConnell said.

The Aircraft Noise Ombudsman will oversee how aircraft noise enquiries and complaints are handled, conduct independent review of how noise complaints are handled and make recommendations for improvements. The Ombudsman will also monitor Airservices’ consultation arrangements and the presentation of noise information to improve the flow of information to the community.

“For the first time the community will have a person to turn to who will listen to their concerns and take action about aircraft noise. As an airport management company, we have no jurisdiction over aircraft in flight and have been unable to resolve noise complaints. The Ombudsman will be able to work directly with industry and users to take action about inappropriate aircraft noise.”

“The airport is very supportive of this important new role, because the local community has been understandably frustrated by the lack of response about noise complaints for some time,” Mr McConnell said.

“Local residents who made submissions to the Minister and especially the Moorabbin Airport Residents Association, which has been asking for an Ombudsman for ten years, can take credit for these important steps forward.” Mr McConnell said.

Well over 200 submissions were made during the public comment phase of the Master Plan process, and Moorabbin Airport Corporation reviewed and carefully considered all the comments received, he said.

The Airports Act 1996 requires that the approved Master Plan is made available for public inspection within 50 business days of its approval and Moorabbin Airport Corporation will, within this time frame, arrange for copies to be made available for inspection and purchase and will ensure the Master Plan is published on its website.

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