**Australian Government**

**Civil Aviation Safety Authority**

NATIONAL OPERATIONS AND STANDARDS DIVISION

*CASA Ref: F18/776-18*

20 July 2021

Mr Krishan Tangri
Executive General Manager, Infrastructure Development and Delivery
Brisbane Airport Corporation Pty Ltd
PO Box 61
Hamilton Central QLD 4008

Dear Mr Tangri,

### Runway nomination criteria request- 10kt Tailwind – Brisbane Aerodrome

I refer to your most recent request for CASA to consider an exemption against the runway nomination criteria specified in *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR) Part 172 Manual of Standards (MOS 172) at Brisbane Aerodrome.

CASA has conducted a review considering the evidence provided in the BAC Proposal, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS) and advice from subject matter experts within CASA.

CASA has determined that the current BAC Proposal, as presented, does not provide sufficient evidence or data to support an approval for your request for runway nomination by air traffic control (ATC) when the tailwind is greater than 5 kts and when a suitable alternative runway is available.

CASA's rejection of the BAC Proposal to allow ATC nomination of a runway when tailwind exceeds 5 kts does not preclude the pilot in command of an aircraft requesting the use of a runway where tailwind exceeds 5 kts.

CASA reflected on international standards and analysis that considers aircraft taking off and landing into a headwind are at a lower risk of an incident when compared to aircraft taking off or landing with a tailwind or adverse weather conditions. CASA is aware that the BAC Proposal would enable increased use of flight paths over water which would reduce the impact of aircraft noise over some local communities.

CASA did consider ICAO PANS-ATM Doc 4444 that states that noise abatement shall not be a determining factor for runway nomination by air traffic control when the tailwind exceeds 5 knots, including gusts. This would also apply to considerations to provide relief to the same standard. While ICAO makes it clear that noise abatement in itself should not determine runway nomination CASA conducted a full evaluation against a host of other criteria in an effort to fully consider your request. CASA did not dismiss the impact your proposal would make with

regard to noise, but the noise abatement changes by themselves, as outlined, did not have a direct connection to or a positive or neutral impact on aviation safety that would warrant an increase in overall risk to operations when a suitable, i.e. less risky, option is available.

CASA also reviewed and considered the 2011 outcome of an ICAO Flight Operations Panel review of a proposal to increase the tailwind component for runway nomination to not greater than 7 knots which was also not supported by the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) at the time. A similar proposal to the PANS/ATM Panel in 2013 was also declined by the ANC. More recently, in 2017 CASA conducted extensive analysis of a proposal to increase downwind criteria for runway nomination by ATC which was not supported on the grounds that a safer alternative was reasonably available. Based on our extensive recent review of the available information, ICAO reviews and review of previous CASA decisions, CASA's current policy and position continues to align with the current ICAO policy on this matter.

CASA considers that the proposal submitted by BAC does not provide sufficient new information, evidence, or a compelling risk analysis to justify a change to the current policy that would enable the nomination of a runway by ATC when the tailwind exceeds 5 kts. CASA also considers the introduction of an increased level of risk where one does not currently exist and where an alternative safer option is available is not prudent at this time.

Should BAC wish to make another application based on new or different data CASA would be happy to have an informal, preliminary discussion as to what additional elements might be instructive for CASA's review.


Yours sincerely

Chris Monahan
Executive Manager