

The General Manager
Aviation Environment
Aviation and Airports
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Submitted via email: brisbanecurfewreview@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Committee,

On behalf of the Queensland business community, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Federal Government on the *Future Brisbane Airport Operations Review of the Need for a Curfew at Brisbane Airport*. CCIQ considers the *Review* a timely opportunity for the Federal Government to recognise the significant economic benefit Queensland's main aviation gateway brings to the national economy.

With respect to the subject of the *Review* namely, to assess the impact of a night-time (11:00pm-6.00am) airport curfew at Brisbane Airport, it is requested the Committee note that CCIQ is strongly opposed to any outcomes of the *Review* that would include a curfew enforced at Brisbane Airport.

CCIQ believes that the imposition of a night-time curfew would have widespread impacts on Queensland's domestic economic performance and Australia's economy more broadly, with reduced opportunities for growth in both the short and long term. Further, a curfew will severely reduce passenger numbers, resulting in key sectors of Queensland and Australia's economies, such as international and domestic tourism, business travel, aviation and aerospace industries, suffering substantially from the negative flow-on effects of a night-time curfew.

There are three primary areas where 24/7 Brisbane Airport operations substantially benefit Queensland's economy and accordingly, are compelling reasons as to why the Brisbane Airport must remain curfew free.

World-class city of opportunity

For Brisbane to capitalise on its growing reputation as a world-class metropolitan city of opportunity, Australia's largest capital city airport must meet the needs of an expanding tourist economy, remain connected with key international destinations, and exploit both short and long term growth opportunities. Further, if Queensland is to benefit from newly gained prospects for international investment, it must build on areas of competitive advantage against major cities that already have a curfew in place, such as Sydney, and become a wholly integrated and forward thinking global city. CCIQ believes this can only occur if Brisbane Airport remains a 24/7 operation.

Attracting international and domestic travellers

Tourism in Queensland attracts approximately \$15 billion spend per annum to the state's economy, with the tourism sector accounting for around 10% of Queensland's workforce. An airport curfew will substantially undermine tourism operations as Brisbane is the key entry point for domestic and international travellers to Queensland. It is critical to the health of Queensland's economy that growth to tourism numbers be facilitated at every opportunity. CCIQ believe in order to capitalise on tourism growth opportunities, Brisbane Airport must remain a 24/7 operation.

Research conducted by BAC, in consultation with Brisbane Airport (BNE), foresees the loss of over 328,000 passenger movements each year in the event of an imposed night-time curfew. This figure includes over 111, 000 international visitors and 112,000 domestic passenger movements, conducting business and holidaying in Queensland. Further, as the fastest growing capital city in Australia, current projections anticipate passenger movements through Brisbane Airport to double over the next 20 years. A curfew will significantly restrict the ability of Brisbane Airport to accommodate for the expected growth in business and tourist numbers, effectively rendering Brisbane a less attractive destination than other major cities operating without an airport curfew.

Capitalising on growth opportunities

CCIQ argues that increasing the capacity of Brisbane Airport is vitally important for ensuring Queensland remains an attractive State to conduct business. 24/7 Brisbane Airport operation is key to remaining flexible and accommodating to overseas business investment. In the event a curfew is imposed at Brisbane Airport, industry sectors such as tourism, freight provision, resources, and aviation, would feel the negative flow-on effects of such an outcome to their business operations.

Further, a curfew would have damaging impacts for productivity levels in the state, resulting in a contraction of productivity in the Australian economy more broadly. A curfew will force the majority of flight scheduling to occur in peak periods, which is highly likely to result in further delays, particularly for business travellers affected by daylight savings restrictions and delays in the interim until a parallel runway is completed. Further, in light of the approaching G20 Summit and Commonwealth Games, a curfew at Brisbane Airport is expected to curtail the flexibility of international arrivals and departures, again restricting flight scheduling that will most probably result in significant delays.

Queensland should look to the future and accommodate for the predicted increase in tourists, business travellers, and international investment by building capacity and providing the necessary infrastructure. CCIQ argues that the only way to achieve this is to ensure Brisbane Airport sustain its operation in its current form by remaining open 24/7.

For these reasons CCIQ is strongly opposed to the implementation of any restrictive curfew arrangements on the Brisbane Airport. CCIQ looks forward to continuing to work with the Federal Government to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for Queensland businesses, our economy and the community. CCIQ would be delighted to better present the arguments contained herein at the Committee's convenience. If you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact Senior Policy Advisor Kate Whittle on (07) 3842 2227 or email kwhittle@cciq.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,



Nick Behrens
General Manager, Advocacy
Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland