

Colin Keel

Chief executive Officer

Queenstown Airport Corporation

**RE: FEEDBACK QUEENSTOWN AIRPORT CORPORATION (QAC) PROPOSED NOISE BOUNDARIES EXPANSION**

Dear Colin,

The Frankton Community Association (FCA) opposes the Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) proposal to extend the noise boundaries. In stating our opposition, the FCA do want to acknowledge that the proposal, developed by QAC has certainly stimulated community discussion regarding the future of the Queenstown Lakes District (QLD), and from our point of view, this can only be seen as a positive. The FCA is taking this opportunity to provide the feedback we have received to outline our opposition to the QAC Executive,

Overall the sentiment within the community towards the proposal to extend the noise boundaries is overwhelmingly against. It is the committee's observation that the further the survey period has gone on during the past five weeks, views have become more entrenched that the proposed noise boundaries are not in the best interests of Frankton or the wider Queenstown Lakes District.

The reasons for this negative response can be distilled down to four common issues. The harmful effects to our quality of life, the loss of amenity value, the amplified infrastructure demands, and an alarming increase in tourism and tourist resentment from within the community.

These four issues became apparent during our engagement with the community. Our engagement was primarily through our public meeting, Tuesday 14 August 2018, to discuss the proposed noise boundary expansion. The meeting attracted an estimated 300 people. We are aware of residents from both Glenorchy and Wanaka being present and participating in the discussion.

The meeting consisted of three speakers to discuss different perspectives on the proposal and to give an overall commentary on the future of the QLD and the impacts the proposed noise boundary expansion may have. The three speakers covered topics ranging from, the resource management planning process, a state of play in the tourism sector, and the health effects of noise exposure. Minutes of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.franktoncommunity.nz/assets/Uploads/Minutes-of-Public-Meeting-14-August-2018.pdf> .

The meeting culminated in a Dotmocracy<sup>1</sup> exercise whereby those present were encouraged to give their view on a range of questions by placing a provided dot sticker on a sliding scale. The questions asked with the corresponding responses are shown below in Table 1:

**Table 1: Dotmocracy summary**

Question 1: How do you feel about the proposal to expand the Airport noise boundaries?				
Strongly Against		Neutral		Strongly for
181	35	5	0	0
Question 2: How well do you understand the impacts of the expanded noise boundaries on your life and community?				
Not Very Well		Neither		Very Well
8	10	28	65	110
Question 3: How do you think expanding the noise boundaries will affect your feelings towards tourism and tourists?				
More Negative		No Different		More Positive
122	59	37	0	0
Question 4: What do you think will be the impact on your overall quality of life, due to the expanded noise boundaries?				
More Negative		No Different		More Positive
184	34	0	0	0
Question 5: If public infrastructure outside of the Airport could be built to meet the needs of the noise expansion boundaries would you support the Airports proposal?				
No		Maybe		Yes
163	35	20	0	0
Question 6: How do you think limiting passenger numbers through refusing the expansion of noise boundaries would impact on the economy of Queenstown?				
Negative Impact		No Different		Positive Impact
5	19	73	52	47

We received 1294 responses to the above questions with a 63/37% split between Frankton residents and rest of the Queenstown Lakes area. The split was determined by the use of different colours when participants responded to the questions asked. A copy of the Dotmocracy sheets can be found at this link: <https://www.franktoncommunity.nz/assets/Uploads/DotMocracy-Sheets.pdf>

The Dotmocracy responses show that it is overwhelmingly negative towards the proposed changes to the noise boundaries. There is also a good level of understanding within the community of what the proposed noise boundary expansion will do to them, and the wider community.

Question three should be a wakeup call to the tourism sector of which the QAC plays a major part in helping to facilitate its success. There is a real risk that this proposal will have a negative effect on host response and the social license needed for the sector to be viable. We would extend this further and suggest that the recent gains in neighbourly cordiality between the Frankton community and the QAC would deteriorate substantially.

The quality of life issue has been raised considerably over the last five weeks either directly with members of the FCA committee or during our public meeting. The effect due to the proposed increase in the noise boundary expansion would mean any recreational value on the Frankton Lakefront would disappear. Our private land use rights will be compromised, coupled with a complete degradation of enjoying our own outdoor space. Our local primary school playground would be untenable, while the learning environment would be severely compromised. During our meeting Dr Marion Poore, Southern District Health Board (SDHB) Medical officer raised further concerns based on international research, they include:

1. Cardiovascular Health
2. Annoyance
3. Sleep Disturbance
4. Effects on Cognition and Learning

Also concerning was the detrimental effect the proposed noise boundaries will have on patient care at our local hospital, notwithstanding the potential impact the noise expansion will have on any further development of the existing hospital site. Dr Marion's presentation slides can be found at this link: <https://www.franktoncommunity.nz/assets/Uploads/Dr-Marion-Poore.pdf>

Question five allowed the participants to further consider the proposal removing the infrastructure constraint issue from the equation. The response was still noticeably negative, with no positive response to the noise boundary proposal even if the infrastructure external to the Airport was in place to cater for the growth in estimated passenger movements.

Question six pointed to a view from the meeting participants that there would be either a nil or positive effect on the local economy if the current proposal of noise boundary expansion did NOT go ahead. This response, in our view, reinforces the risk highlighted in question three that the community perception of the tourism cost-benefit is near a tipping point towards a perceived social and economic burden.

In an effort to ensure community goodwill is maintained we ask the QAC to halt its noise boundary expansion plans to:

1. Let us, as a community, a town, a district, and a region, the time to discuss and decide on our own future direction, and what we see as our growth potential, both socially and economically without compromising our amazing outdoor environment.
2. Allow the Queenstown Lakes District Council to lead our future direction by way of allowing the recently announced Queenstown 2050 vision work to breathe and grow without the shadow of the noise boundary expansion looming over it.
3. Allow the QAC to complete its Wanaka Airport Master Plan work so both communities (Queenstown and Wanaka) have all the information available, so we can assess the potential effect, our decisions will have on each other, or decide to investigate other opportunities.

To conclude the FCA emphasises our strong opposition to the noise boundary expansion proposal. However, we are appreciative of this opportunity to provide our view and input on behalf of the Frankton community. We also acknowledge that a discussion about our collective direction and what the Lakes District should be into the future can only be positive.

Kind Regards

Frankton Community Association



Glyn Lewers

FCA Chairman

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<sup>i</sup> Dotmocracy is an established facilitation method used to describe voting with dot stickers or marks with a marker pen