



31 July 2025

Expert Panel
Sunfield Fast-track Application
FTAA – 2503 – 1039

RE: SUNFIELD FAST-TRACK APPLICATION – RESPONSE TO MINUTE 5 OF THE EXPERT PANEL

Although this is not an Environment Court proceeding, I Bridget Wouts of L+R Airport Consulting, confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023 and have complied with it in preparing the *Proposed Sunfield Development Ardmore Airport Safeguarding* report, for the purposes of the Sunfield Fast-track application.

I confirm that the issues addressed in this that report are within my area of expertise and that I have reported on them impartially. I declare that I have no relationship with Sunfield other than through the engagement of my employer, L+R Airport Consulting, to prepare this report and to provide advice on airport safeguarding matters, and that have no interest in the outcome of the proceeding.

As requested by the Expert Panel, details of my qualifications and relevant experience accompany this letter.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Hargreaves', with a stylized flourish at the end.

B.J. HARGREAVES M.Eng, M.Sc, C.Eng MICE, MIEAust, CPEng, RPEQ
National Manager
L+R Airport Consulting

BEN HARGREAVES

NATIONAL MANAGER, AVIATION

- Master of Science, Airport Planning and Management – Loughborough University (UK), 2005
- MIEAust, CPEng
- Chartered Member of the Institution of Engineers – C.Eng MICE, 2001
- Masters of Engineering (Civil) – Durham University (UK), 1997



Ben is a professionally qualified civil engineer and airport planner with over 25 years' experience specialising within the airports sector. He has considerable expertise in this field gained through numerous airport planning and development studies, in Europe, the Middle East and Australasia. In 2005, he completed a postgraduate Master of Science in Airport Planning and Management.

Since joining L+R Airport Consulting in September 2005, Ben has contributed to and managed a wide range of airport master planning, feasibility and design studies. He has a thorough understanding of aviation technical and operational considerations and recognised expertise in airport planning and design, aerodrome safeguarding and airspace matters. He has played key roles in a wide range of aeronautical studies and aviation impact and airport safeguarding assessments in relation to the protection of airspace, airspace operations and management, hazards and risks of aircraft operations and compatible land use planning.

Ben is adept at drawing together a wide range of inter-related issues associated with airport design, operations and regulatory standards, risks and hazards and airport safeguarding. His long experience in Australian aviation matters means Ben can easily and effectively engage with a wide range of relevant stakeholders

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION & ROLE
Aircherfield Airport Project ARROW Archerfield Airport Corporation, 2024-25	Project Director for Aviation design input to a new 990m x 23m sealed cross runway realignment to replace existing grass parallel runways. Oversight of 90% civil design adherence to aerodrome design standards, provision of operational input to design modifications and supervision of aerodrome markings and markers 90% design.
Western Sydney Airport DITRDCA, 2018-24	Engaged by the Commonwealth as a technical advisor to the airspace and flight path design process for the Western Sydney International Airport. Played a key role in the planning, identification and assessment of flight path high level concept options and assisted the Department through the management of the subsequent preliminary design and environmental assessment process, including review of Hazards and Risks technical paper and EIS chapter.
The Aviator Development, SA City of Onkaparinga, 2024	Undertook a peer review of a risk assessment/safety case for the establishment of a private tourism aviation facility immediately adjacent the existing Aldinga aerodrome.

PROJECT	PROJECT DESCRIPTION & ROLE
Shellharbour Airport Master Plan Shellharbour City Council, 2023-24	Project Manager for the development of a comprehensive airport Master Plan drawing together previous development concepts and a range of on-airport business opportunities including the possibility of more affordable air services for the local population. Provided detailed assessment of key technical challenges Council needs to address to realise this.
Sunfield Development, Ardmore Airport Safeguarding Study Sunfield Developments Ltd, 2023	Project Director for airport safeguarding study of proposed business park and residential subdivision adjacent to Ardmore Airport in Auckland, New Zealand
Runway and Aerodrome Standards Technical Advice Clayton Utz 2022-23	Provision of technical advice on current and historical standards relating to runway, runway strip and associated aerodrome requirements to assist lawyers in acting for an airport client.
Christchurch International Airport Noise Modelling Environment Canterbury, 2022-23	Appointed to an international expert panel to peer review the noise modelling and resulting contours prepared by Christchurch Airport's expert team. Ben was appointed to the Flight Tracks Assumptions expert role and was responsible for ensuring relevant model inputs were developed and applied in accordance with international best practice.
Glen Innes Airport Master Plan Glen Innes Severn Council 2022	Project Manager for preparation of an airport master plan for the Glen Innes Airport, incorporation of specialist airfield pavement assessment and delivery against three groups of key objectives.
Merimbula Airport Airside Infrastructure Upgrade Bega Valley Shire Council 2017-2022	Project Manager for the concept and preliminary design of runway starter extensions, including development of risk assessment/safety case and application for exemption from standards prior to the incorporation of standards in the Part 139 MOS 2019, and subsequent detailed design in accordance with the MOS.
Melbourne Airport M3R Aircraft Hazards and Risks and Master Plan 2022 Public Safety Areas Melbourne Airport, 2020-21	Development of PSAs for four operating scenarios (3 build and 1 No build) and three assessment years for the three-runway airport layout plus one ultimate operating scenario for the four-runway airport, using the UK methodology to calculate estimated 1 in 10,000 and 1 in 100,000 individual risk levels based on the forecast runway usage by aircraft type and operation.
Bairnsdale Airport Master Plan East Gippsland Shire Council 2019-2020	Project Director for development of the Bairnsdale Airport Master Plan 2020, including planning for upgrade of Runway 04/22 to CASA part 139 MOS (2019) Code 3C standards.
Mount Beauty Airport Runway Upgrade Alpine Shire Council 2020	Project Manager for: » Evaluation of scope of upgrade requirements for funding agreement » Concept design and cost estimate » Parallel taxiway assessment
Melbourne Airport Obstacle Control Procedures Review Melbourne Airport, 2019	Project Manager for review of Chapter 12 of the Melbourne Airport Aerodrome Manual procedures for the control of obstacles against APARs. Risk review of identified gaps and non-compliances in accordance with APAM risk framework and identification of management actions.
Melbourne Airport Runway Development Program / M3R Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd 2014 - 2022	Study leader for the airspace architecture, aircraft noise and aircraft hazards and risks impact assessment workstream for the proposed new east-west runway development. Subsequent involvement in the Melbourne Airport runway planning review team and the decision to alter the orientation of the proposed runway to north-south, and the preparation of the revised MDP, including aircraft Hazards and Risks chapter.
Essendon Airport Runway Code Review Essendon Fields Airport 2017-18	Undertook a review of current runway categorisation and options for changing the aerodrome reference code and instrument approach classification with reference to the requirements of CASA MOS Part 139, CASRs Part 173 and ICAO Annex 14 Volume I
Perth Airport New Runway Project Airspace Impact Assessment Perth Airport Pty Ltd 2017	Study leader for the development of airspace flight path preliminary design and operational criteria including runway/track allocation rules for use as inputs to aircraft noise and air quality impact assessments.