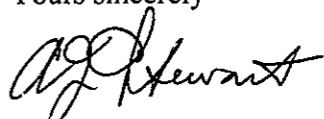


Nicholas Dowie
Planning Policy and Environment Section, Airports Branch
Dept. of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government
GPO Box 594, Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Dowie,

With reference to the discussion paper 'Safeguards for airports and the communities around them' recently released by the Federal Department of Infrastructure and Transport for community consultation, I enclose and ask you to read a copy of a letter I wrote in February 2008 to the Executive Director, Canberra International Airport when the airport's Preliminary Draft Master Plan was released for public comment.

Yours sincerely



13/7/09

Alastair Stewart
23 Vasey Crescent
Campbell, ACT, 2612

COPY

Executive Director,
Canberra International Airport
1/2 Brindabella Circuit
CANBERRA AIRPORT, ACT, 2609

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to object to your 2008 Preliminary Draft Master Plan, specifically the plan's proposal for the airport to have aircraft landing and taking off at night. According to the *New Scientist* for 16 Feb 2008, p. 6, recent research published in the *European Heart Journal* (DOI: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehn013) has shown that average aircraft noise temporarily raises systolic blood pressure by 6.2 millimetres of mercury (mmHg) and diastolic blood pressure by 7.4 mmHg. Other noises, such as road traffic or a particular partner's snoring, also raised people's blood pressure, but aircraft, including take-offs and landings, had the most significant impact. The same *New Scientist* article also reported that a 'parallel study of 5000 people to be published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* shows that every 10-decibel increase in night-time aircraft noise raises a person's risk of developing high blood pressure by 14 per cent in both men and women.' As I'm sure you know, high blood pressure can result in stroke, heart failure, heart attack, and kidney failure.

In view of these health risks, I urge you to ensure that when the Master Plan for Canberra International Airport is finalised, it states that landings and take-offs take place between the hours of 7 am and 11 pm only, emergencies excepted. In other words, for the sake of the health of people living near the airport, e.g., Campbell, Hackett, Watson, and Jerrabomberra, there must be a night time curfew at the airport.

Yours faithfully



Alastair Stewart 26 Feb 2008
23 Vasey Crescent, Campbell, ACT 2612

cc: Andrew Barr,
Jacqui Burke,
Simon Corbell
Deb Foskey
Katy Gallagher
Richard Mulcahy
Mick Gentleman
Zed Seselja, all at ACT Legislative Assembly, GPO Box 1020 Canberra ACT
2601.

Bob McMullan, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600