

30 July 2009

Nicholas Downie
Planning Policy and Environment Section
Airports Branch
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir

SAFEGUARDS FOR AIRPORTS AND THE COMMUNITIES AROUND THEM

As owner operators of Geraldton the City of Geraldton-Greenough submit the following document for consideration as our response to the departmental discussion paper.

This submission addresses “**Off Airport Land Use Planning**”.

3.0 OFF AIRPORT LAND USE PLANNING

The discussion paper contains a number of questions regarding ANEFs and AS2021. These are:

1. Does the ANEF system provide an effective basis for planning in noise affected areas?
2. How effective is the ANEF system as a land use planning standard for greenfield developments around airports?
3. Are the acceptable levels of aircraft noise for particular developments identified in AS2021 consistent with current community expectations?
4. How can the current planning arrangement to address developments in noise-affected areas around airports and under flight paths be improved to take account of community expectations, while also providing for the reasonable growth of aviation activity at airports?
5. For developments around the major capital city and freight airports, should state governments have to refer residential development within a defined buffer zone to the Commonwealth Transport Minister or Secretary for approval?

As with numerous regional centres in Australia, urban expansion over recent years has posed threats to Geraldton Airport. Investigation revealed that the current ANEF system did not provide an effective basis for planning.

A proactive Council resolved to have staff investigate an alternate plan for noise management in the area adjacent to the Airport after consultation with Westralia Airports Corporation technical department and the Department of Transport and Regional Services in Canberra and a strategy was developed for future land use. The information provided in the attachment now provides a vital tool for development of land within the Geraldton Airport Special Control Area.

Yours faithfully



BOB URQUHART
Manager Geraldton Airport