



27 July 2009

Nicholas Dowie  
Section Head  
Airports Planning, Policy and Environment  
Aviation and Airports Division  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

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Dear Mr Dowie,

**RE: Discussion Paper – Safeguards for Airports**

Newcastle Airport is unique in Australia in that high capacity RPT aircraft operate from an entirely military aerodrome. This presents many challenges, especially with compliance with both civil and military standards; therefore it is important that any standards established to safeguard civil airports should also be applied to RAAF Base Williamstown.

Newcastle Airport Limited strongly supports the position taken by the Australian Airports Association in its submission on this subject. We especially support a unified approach for all airports and this must also include military airports.

The issue of use of the outdated ANEF system in land use planning is particularly relevant to Williamstown as the introduction of a new, noisier aircraft into the Defence fleet in coming years will impact on the community and residents expectations about noise impact safeguards. A community concern about aircraft noise, both military and civil, has the potential to adversely affect civil capacity growth for Newcastle Airport. We agree that it is better for the Commonwealth to require that planning schemes around airports contain assessment processes and tabulations for allowable and disallowable development types and in which areas.

Newcastle Airport agrees that better planning safeguards for Australian Airports is long overdue and fully supports the Commonwealth in proposing changing the way Airport Infrastructure is protected. Once these changes are in place it is equally important that rigorous enforcement mechanisms are also available.

Newcastle Airport thanks the Department for the opportunity to comment on this discussion paper and would welcome the opportunity to be part of any industry working group to progress the issues raised in the Discussion Paper.

Yours sincerely,

**Graham Giddey**  
**Manager Aviation Services**