

19 July 2009

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

Dear Mr Dowie,

Re: Aircraft Noise/Discussion Paper

I wish to provide comment on the discussion paper 'Safeguards for airports and the communities around them', as it relates to aircraft noise.

I consider that the discussion paper is grossly inadequate in its omission of safeguards to sleep. I live in an existing residential area of Canberra, adjacent to the flight path where I can hear aircraft - I am regularly woken by the first flights out of Canberra and have no problem with this as I am an early riser. However if no night curfew is imposed and Canberra Airport is successful in its ambition to have a 24 hour freight hub then this would put paid to quality sleep in my home and a large percentage of homes in and around the A.C.T. Night time aircraft noise is heightened by the fact that very little background noise exists at this time.

My recommendation is that the safeguards should recognise the following:

- 1 The community has a right to expect undisturbed sleep from aircraft noise, peace and quiet at night should be safeguarded from major expansions by airports.
- 2 A night-time noise standard should be established, respecting evidence of the noise level at which sleep disturbance occurs (for example the World Health Organisation).

Yours sincerely,



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