

Mr Nicholas Dowie,  
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Dear Sir

**RE: Safeguards for airports and the communities Discussion Paper**

We all appreciate that airports are commercial business, often they are owned by developers or large corporations. Therefore, communities deserve / must have safeguards from airport owners self interest, financial greed and outright boggy manipulation of process.

As such, the process of determining what land is suitable for residential development and what lands are not suitable must be consistent across the nation with one standard for all. It is my view that all interested parties must have certainty with regards to future planning. This has generally been achieved successfully using the current ANEF framework however, under some examination it has also been, and can still be, manipulated beyond what most would think likely.

To improve this process, it is proposed that airport owners no longer have responsibility for the development of an ANEF. Airport owners should contribute to the process, not own it. The process must be owned by the government/s in consultation with the appropriate planning minister/s that could be affected, communities and other stack holders. In addition a planning Minister should have flexibility even an override or veto capability if it is considered in the interest of the community.

Currently, the ANEF system can be manipulated to create a financial disadvantage for one company or community or alternatively provide a large financial advantage for another company, simply by the airport owners redrawing the ANEF boundary to suit a desired situation. Neither, may be at the communities best interest. At present government authorities and government ministers are powerless to demand an independent review of the data used to create the ANEF. This has a cost to society, either land can be underdeveloped or developed inappropriately.

The community deserves to be safeguarded against airport misuse of any system. As our elected leaders ministers need to take ultimate responsibility for appropriate planning not airport corporations. To achieve this the ANEF system and the development of approved national guides can be and is a useful tool, it just needs to be placed in the rights hands.

**In summary, I suggest that:**

- The existing ANEF system should be maintained however, it should be prepared by government authorities and not prepared by self-serving corporations. All stack holders should have an equal part in the process.
- An 11 pm - 6 am curfew should be implemented at Canberra Airport with similar regulations as Sydney Airport – everyone deserves the same protection and safeguards from airport noise at night.
- The process of preparing the airports ANEF should be totally transparent, all data used in an ANEF should be available to the public and testing by an independent authority if required.
- Planning Minister should have an override capability for particular situations.

Regards  
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