

69 Irvine Street
Watson ACT 2602

14 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

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

I am appalled that a 24-hour freight hub is still being considered. A small plane flies into Canberra around 2.30 a.m.; it is not as noisy as the big jets but it still wakes me from a sound sleep. I cannot believe that the airport and the 'powers that be' would consider a 24-hour service that would impact severely on my sleeping time and the sleeping time of people in the nearby suburbs.

When I first moved to Watson I was deafened by planes taking off overhead and had to stop phone conversations. This was day time, when there was the usual background noise. Somebody had the sense to reroute the planes further north which rendered the aircraft noise bearable. No matter what route the jets take at night to enter Canberra airport freight hub, hundreds of people, including the elderly and children, will have their rest disturbed and many will suffer illness because of it.

The idea seems to be to relieve the noise burden of Sydney and to perhaps make Canberra a second Sydney airport. We are not on a main road route to Sydney or Melbourne; any freight landed here will have to be trucked out, making more noise.

Please, if you must have a 'hub', at least establish a night-time curfew.

Yours faithfully



(Mrs VE Melandri)