
Sent: Thursday, 26 June 2008 12:39 PM
To: Aviation Statement
Subject: Essendon Airport

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to register my strong opposition to the proposal to close Essendon Airport.

This airport has long served the very community that now is placing pressure on its continued existence. I have personally been a user of this airport since the mid 1970's and have watched the encroachment of the residential developments surrounding this excellent facility. It is the consequence of this seemingly unfettered growth by avaricious developers that has placed the residents of the adjacent suburbs in such proximity to the airport, it was not forced upon these people who made informed decisions to buy houses in this vicinity. To do so and then to claim that the airport should be closed as a matter of safety is a most malicious, devious and mischievous claim. The more realistic reason that these so-called 'concerned residents' wish this airport to be closed is to elevate their own speculative land values and to cash in upon the additional residential and business development that the release of this land would provide.

This airport in it's long and important story has long been responsible for saving far more lives than ever it has claimed. Medical, ambulance and emergency aircraft as well as law enforcement aircraft of the Victoria police and other enforcement agencies use this well provided airport, for which there is no equivalent airport within the metro area. The ILS precision approach and air Traffic Control services make this an extremely valuable asset as an airport and would, I believe reduce the standards of air safety in the Melbourne area if it was closed. Gippsland Aeronautics regularly uses this airport to pick up international visitors who have arrived at Tullamarine, Melbourne International Airport, and to fly these visitors to our facility where we conduct world class aerospace design and manufacture for domestic and international markets. The proximity of these two airports provided an efficient and extremely convenient transfer from the international terminal. There is no other viable airport that we could use for this purpose. We are not the sole user of Essendon airport for these type of services. This airport provides an extremely convenient all weather terminal for rural and regional Victoria for Victorian businesses and international visitors for both business and pleasure.

Once again I wish to place my objections to the closure of Essendon airport upon the record.

Yours Faithfully

David Wheatland
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