

Sent: Thursday, 26 June 2008 12:57 PM
To: Aviation Statement
Subject: Essendon airport

Hello,

I am a pilot and aircraft owner with an aircraft based at Essendon Airport. Essendon Airport has a long history as Melbourne's primary aerodrome, dating back to the 1920's. It was home to domestic and international airliners until the new airport at Tullamarine opened in 1972. Since that time it has been home to the air ambulance/RFDS, Police air wing, private and corporate aviation. With the investment of the new airport operators, there has been an increase in infrastructure in the airport precinct, both for aviation and other commercial activities. Over the past 10 years the annual movements for the airport have remained relatively static. The airport master plan does not anticipate that this will change significantly.

The airport serves as a major piece of community infrastructure. Like roads and freeways, they provide the means for society to function.

Also like freeways, people living around them find them to be unneighbourly. Roads, freeways and airports exist as they benefit the community as a whole at the expense of a minority. Essendon airport provides a benefit to all Victorians. If it is forced to close, the site will be lost forever.

During the past 50 years there has been more and more housing built around the airport. These properties were built with full knowledge that the airport was in existence. All residents who live near Essendon airport have moved there while the airport has been there, and many when it was in a far more noisy period (1960-1975)

It would be very disappointing for the vocal minority to cause a critical piece of Victorian infrastructure to be lost to the silent majority.

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