

Sent: Thursday, 26 June 2008 6:22 AM
To: aviationstatement@infrastructure.com.au
Subject: Response to Thompson WP

Response to Thompson WP

From John Eacott

The supporting evidence relied upon by Kelvin Thompson is weak and often irrelevant. There is a gross misunderstanding of many issues, not the least is Fly Neighbourly agreements, which have no legal binding and are purely voluntary. Forcing helicopters into a fixed flight path will severely disadvantage those residents under the flight path: they would then have strong grounds to blame their local member!

The accident statistics for Essendon are far better than most other GA airports, with only three quoted 'serious' accidents in 30 years: hardly cause for concern.

Concern expressed about air quality to the north of the airfield seems (conveniently) to have omitted the close proximity of both the Tullamarine Freeway and the Northern Ring Road, which would certainly impact on the residents in the manner attributed to Essendon's aircraft!

Assertions about GA aircraft in a broad sense bear little or no relevance to Essendon Airport specifically, and are seen here as scare mongering, not justification for the phasing out of GA aircraft.

"Had public feedback been sought, the Government would have known that the strong majority of residents want aviation activities to be relocated. "

Where is the proof that a "strong majority" support this claim? 120 residents attending a meeting is far from a majority!

I object strongly to this assertion by Mr Thompson.

John Eacott

25th June 2008