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The Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

Towards a National Aviation Policy Statement

We refer to the call for public submissions in response to the *Issues Paper: Towards a National Aviation Policy Statement* and would like to take this opportunity to respond specifically to a section in the issues paper that considers the relationship between building development and the setting of an ANEF for areas surrounding an airport.

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) is the peak industry body for residential construction, renovation and development. With over 43,000 members Australia-wide, including 1,500 members in its ACT and Southern NSW region the HIA is in a position to comment with authority on any matters that impact on the built environment.

The issues paper covers a range of broad and diverse topics that are relevant to the establishment of a national aviation policy. This requires consideration of a number of complexities that are outside HIA's core business and HIA has no intention of providing comment in relation to these matters. Where HIA does have a sizeable interest, however, is in the discussion of guidelines and standards that have the potential to greatly reduce the availability of useable residential land in the vicinity of airports.

While HIA appreciates the need to protect the public interest in ensuring that local communities are minimally affected by aircraft noise we are not convinced that there is a justification for applying more conservative standards. We note that there is already an existing standard (*AS 2021 1985 – Acoustics – Airport Noise Intrusion – Building Siting and Construction*). To go beyond this would result in surrounding areas of a number of airports across the country becoming non-compliant with the standard. While it is unlikely that any revision of the standard would have retrospective effect, it makes a mockery of the system if different rules apply to different airports and their surrounding areas.

In the event further comment is sought on this aspect of the issues paper, HIA would welcome the opportunity to provide input. Ultimately, a more conservative approach to ANEFs will have the potential to heavily impact on greenfield and infill sites at a time when a ready supply of land is needed now and into the future to meet underlying demand and address housing affordability issues.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss HIA's submission further.

Yours sincerely
HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION LIMITED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart Collins
Executive Director
ACT/Southern NSW