

Received by ...
12 JUN 2008
(Gardner Office)



Judy Maddigan M.P. State Member for Essendon

RECEIVED MPS

10 June 2008

16 JUN 2008

The Hon Anthony Albanese
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
House of Representatives
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

RE: White Paper for Australia's Aviation Future

In relation to this review I would submit that the aviation activities at Essendon Airport should be relocated to a more suitable airport as soon as is practicable.

Pending this decision, no decision should be made about commercial developments at the airport unless proper planning practices are put in place.

In support of my view that aviation activities should be relocated I provide the following information:

1. Due to the residential nature of the area around Essendon Airport it is no longer suitable for general aviation activities.
2. Avalon Airport is a suitable airport for the re-location of traffic currently operating out of Essendon.
3. A large part of the residential area around the airport was established before the Airport expanded for World War 2.
4. The establishment of Melbourne Airport now means that the airspace for craft landing and leaving Essendon is limited, often meaning flight paths over residential areas
5. There have been a number of mistakes with pilots mistaking Essendon Airport for Melbourne Airport because they are in close proximity.
6. The increasing private helicopter traffic is noisy and causes particular environmental concerns for residents in the area.
7. There should be no further developments of a commercial nature at the site until proper planning processes are in place. This can be introduced immediately by adopting State and council policies.



Reflections
Maribyrnong River

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8. Residents were told that Essendon Airport would be closed when Melbourne Airport was opened.
9. Federal Labor Policy is to close the airport.

I understand that Kelvin Thomson, MHR Wills has forwarded you a copy of our joint submission to the Master Plan process currently underway for Essendon Airport.

Essendon Airport is a very old general aviation airport, and no longer meets the planning requirements that are applicable in the 21st century. An early decision to commence the closing down process would be warmly welcomed by the local residents and the Moonee Valley Council,

Yours sincerely

Judy Maddigan

Judy Maddigan MP
Member for Essendon