

Hackett ACT 2602  
27 June 2008

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

**Re: Issues Paper – Towards a National Aviation Policy Statement**

To whom it may concern,

I write as a Canberra resident to express my deep concern about part of the Aviation Policy Statement – notably Customer and Community protection – point 4.2 Aircraft noise.

In summary, I believe there must be a night time curfew at Canberra Airport.

Canberra International Airport is planning massive expansion under its latest draft Master Plan. It wants to become Sydney's second airport, including a 24-hour airfreight hub. Unlike Sydney, in Canberra, we don't have a night time curfew. There will be bigger planes with much greater frequency – up to one plane movement every two minutes. There are significant social and environmental costs to the Canberra and Queanbeyan communities.

I believe Canberra residents should be afforded the same level of protection from night time aircraft noise as Sydney residents – particularly given the moves to expand Canberra Airport's operation to effectively serve as Sydney's second airport.

If government policy allows unrestricted 24-hour operations of large passenger and cargo aircraft over Canberra there will be major impacts on the quality of life for Canberra residents. I firmly believe that economic development should not be at the expense of community wellbeing.

There is strong evidence that exposure to aircraft noise at night has an adverse impact on health – the government simply cannot permit this to occur.

No independent data has been provided to confirm the extent of noise impact on residents, from the proposed major increases in Canberra Airport's operations. Residents have the right to be protected from sleep disruption and adverse health until such time as an independent noise impact assessment of the proposed development by Canberra Airport confirms that aircraft noise impacts are within acceptable limits.

There is a groundswell of community opposition to Canberra Airport's proposal. I believe residents must be consulted further on the need for an airport curfew and other safeguards before these proposals are approved and become operational.

I trust you will take these points into consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Towards an National Aviation Policy Statement issues paper.

Yours sincerely

Alison Richens