

**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2008 5:49 PM

**To:** Aviation Statement

**Subject:** Submission to the development of a National Aviation Policy Statement Review

Submission to the development of a National Aviation Policy Statement Review

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, and Local Development

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please allow me to express my extreme concern and displeasure at attempts to close down the Essendon airport among other airports.

Essendon airport, to my understanding, facilitates a very vital component of our social and transport needs, by being a hub that allows small aircraft to undertake Medical, Private, Charter, and Training requirements. Certain members council, city, state and country are heavily dependent on this airport being able to function successfully. A small section includes -

- Patients reliant on their survival or treatment on RFDS
- Tourism operators like hotel, motel, pub, and other recreation centre owners in far off places which are serviced by charter flights
- Owners, operators and employees in the rapidly shrinking but absolutely vital aviation and aviation maintenance industry
- Banks and other customers that are heavily reliant on rapid freight movement, trainee pilots needed to service the ever expanding traveling public in Australia
- People wanting to experience the simple joy of flying, as also business and trade people heavily reliant on servicing distant customer needs.

I write this submission without currently being any of the above, only perhaps someone who loves to experience the simple joy of flying

Without wanting to take a light or flippant view on the main points of objection to the functioning of the airport, the objections seem to be in similar vein to:

- I live next to a motorway and am sick and tired of the noise all those cars, buses and trucks make. I have written to my MP, demanding that he take immediate action to severely curtail vehicular movements on the stretch of road passing my house.
- The local rail network is now under increasing pressure (from me) to cut down on its traffic - or face complete closure. I simply don't want this kind of noise on my doorstep. I find it unacceptable that a diesel-powered locomotive, pulling thousands of tons of freight, aggregates, animals or people should be permitted to rumble and thunder through my neighbourhood. The disturbances caused by trains must stop.

- The terrible noise of children at play, in the neighbouring school, was reduced somewhat from the initial 87db, following my vociferous representations to the Education Authority. After a short period at around 57 db, the level of noise increased, back to the original 87db and, as a result, the school has been closed down - on my insistence.
- So far, my memo to the Pest Control Department of my local council has not been actioned. It contained details of a certain bird species which, since the start of spring, has been waking me at dawn with its "mating call". This is noisy AND disgusting and I have, therefore, suggested that the council employ marksmen, lay poison or humanely capture the creatures and release them to a bird sanctuary, where they will be unable to cause distress to taxpayers, like myself. My MP is in agreement.
- More recently, I have enlisted the help and assistance of my local MP. Together, we will fight to prevent cows from mooing to one another and making smells in the countryside outside of normal waking hours. Pollution of rural areas should not be tolerated by people who have paid a premium to live in the country.
- As soon as we have raised sufficient funds, our activities will be broadened to include lobbying the Federal Parliament to fund the latest genetically modified sheep larynx. This new bioresearch project will virtually eliminate "baa-ing" noises from the country - making it a more peaceful place to live in.

People far wiser than me will be able to debate on the economic benefits that the airport brings, the dangers of operating aircraft, noise levels and communicating with the broader community.

What I summarise is from my point of view is:

1. Aviation at essendon is a very fundamental need of a whole section of our community. Let their voices not lost in this process.
2. Communities and development around the airport may be well established, but none that complain outdate the airport itself. We may not all agree on the fact the the airport came first argument, but surely it merits some sort of importance.
3. People complaining about airports are in all probability using other airports for their own needs. Are they then not exhibiting hypocritical behaviour, or do they not understand that all airports have the same sort of effect on neighbouring communities.

Thank you for your attention.

Tiju Thomas

Dandenong South, Vic 3164