

Dear Sir,

Thousands of residents of a handful of Sydney's inner suburbs are affected by the overwhelming aircraft noise, which is getting worse and worse.

The current curfew and 80-movements cap (with respites only recommended, but not guaranteed) don't seem to be enough, as the airport openly admits (as I heard from the airport officials during the community consultations) that they would use anything what the legislation allows with no ethical inhibitions. It means that if they can have 80 movements per hour 17 hours a day, they will use them (the East-West Runway Upgrade Project confirms it).

Therefore, I suggest that the Aviation Policy should explicitly and specifically address the problem of the Sydney Airport in twofold manner. Here are just some suggestions:

1) Longer-term solutions:

- 1.1) It would be fantastic to admit that as Sydney Airport is historically in the inner city, it's environmental capacity has been reached;
- 1.2) Thus, more strict caps might be applied on the traffic increase. For example:
 - Guaranteed, not just recommended respite periods
 - Overall cap on daily movements
 - Increasing the curfew up to 8 hours (the medically recommended duration of normal daily sleep is 8 hours; I don't see why the residents should be deprived of this basic right)
- 1.3) Therefore, the aviation authorities and corporations would be urged to look for other solutions: building the second airport, revamping the other existing airports, etc.

2) Some shorter-term suggestions:

- 2.1) The local councils should have more negotiation power with the airport. If some excessive noise is absolutely unavoidable, the airport should not just take, but at least should give something in return.
- 2.2) If the noise level goes beyond certain threshold, the property seller should be obliged to disclose it to the buyer. (There can be deceptively quiet periods and people can be easily tricked into a deal unacceptable for them.)
- 2.3) It would be good to do a medical research on the noise impact. I am sure it would disclose a dramatic increase of frustration, anxiety, and sleep deprivation-related problems in the affected areas, which lead to higher accident rate, lower productivity, etc. Thus, the hidden economical effects of the noise go far beyond inconvenience or property prices. The society pays dearly in terms of medical expenses, lower output at work, the kids who get worse education, etc. Since in Sydney it badly affects daily lives of dozens of thousands people and translates into millions of dollars, such a research is worth of doing.

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