

**Sent:** Thursday, 26 June 2008 6:11 PM  
**To:** Aviation Statement  
**Subject:** Submission: National Aviation Policy Statement

To: Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development & Local Government  
Canberra, ACT

Dear Sirs:

I wish to make the following submission on the subject.

- Airport noise can boost blood pressure *while you're asleep*, according to researchers who show that living near an airport isn't just irritating, it **can also be unhealthy**. This was reported by ABC in Feb-2008 at the following link [www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/02/13/2161764.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2008/02/13/2161764.htm) Caption is attached below. As a result of exposure to night time airport noise, people face increased risks of hypertension and associated adverse health.



The finding that aircraft noise can increase your blood pressure as you sleep should be a warning to authorities about the potential effect of expanding large international airports, researchers say (*Source: iStockphoto*)

- Subject Apr-08 Issues Paper notes that growing overnight air freight industry requires certainty on which airports will remain curfew free to facilitate international and domestic overnight freight networks. However this, and fact that only four major airports have statutory curfews (11pm to 6am), conflict head-on with basic health issues. It is ironic that local councils have anti-noise regulations imposed (rightly so) within residential suburbs but major airports including Brisbane (except for four nighttime-curfew airports) have a free reign. Noise complaint services dont do anything as far I can see - planes still arrive/depart in the middle of the night. So are business and tourism imperatives so paramount that increased risks of chronic high blood pressure, or hypertension, of people exposed to night-time airport noise is irrelevant? I dont think so, nor should the Government.
- Noteworthy is Feb-08 Swiss Federal Court win for compensation of SwFr 170,000 against Zurich airport for airport noise, in this case for loss of

property value. One wonders is that the true economic cost, given the adverse health impact as well. Indeed, the Apr-08 Issues Paper does not appear to include economic costs of the consequential increase of health care of people affected by night-time exposure to airport noise.

[http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/front/Airport\\_noise\\_test\\_case\\_wins\\_compensation.html?siteSect=105&sid=8793737&cKey=1204277366000&ty=st](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/front/Airport_noise_test_case_wins_compensation.html?siteSect=105&sid=8793737&cKey=1204277366000&ty=st)



- [www.eltoroairport.org/issues/munich.htm](http://www.eltoroairport.org/issues/munich.htm) Munich Study is another noteworthy study, in Munich, which I understand now has night-time airport curfew.
- I don't wish to overload the Department with more studies/reports but just to point out in USA there is huge amount of scientific evidence of airport noise adverse impact on children's health and psychological well being such as this report [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/1998/03/980306043455.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/1998/03/980306043455.htm)
- In conclusion, Brisbane should have night-time airport curfew like the other four Australian airports. Improving noise complaint services does not solve the problem of adverse health caused by night-time airport noise.

Yours Faithfully,

David Yap

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