



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Infrastructure and Transport**

---

Mr Stephen Byron  
Managing Director  
Capital Airport Group  
2 Brindabella Circuit  
BRINDABELLA BUSINESS PARK ACT 2609

Dear Mr Byron

As you are aware, the Department of Infrastructure and Transport (the Department) is currently working with State, Territory and local government representatives to progress the Australian Government's airport safeguarding objectives identified in the National Aviation Policy White Paper (the White Paper).

One of the important objectives of the White Paper is to work with jurisdictions on a national land use planning regime near airports and under flight paths, to minimise noise-sensitive development being located in areas affected by aircraft operations. The National Airports Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG) will advise ministers on policy options which might be considered for application across jurisdictions.

An important element of this work is to ensure that there are effective arrangements in place to identify and address situations where there is pressure to allow noise-sensitive developments, such as residential, in areas with significant current or predicted exposure to aircraft noise.

As part of this process, NASAG is exploring the scope to supplement the use of the Australian Noise Exposure Forecasts (ANEF) system with information tools such as measures of single event noise exposure at a location or measures of the frequency of exposures above a certain decibel level (such as N65 and N70s). This reflects concern that the ANEF approach is not always enough on its own to identify the areas in which noise issues may lead to pressure to restrict aircraft operations. In addition to use by planners, this information might also be used to provide prospective purchasers of properties in noise-affected areas with notice and access to understandable information about the likely noise.

The Department's access to this type of information at individual airports is limited and, in many cases, dated. NASAG has indicated that it would be valuable to have available for consideration specific presentations of noise information which might potentially be used as a supplementary tool for land use planning.

Therefore, we are seeking from each of the federal airports the following information:

- the ultimate capacity ANEF (including the 25 and 20 contours);
- the 20 event N70 contour;

- the 50 event N65 contour;
- the 100 event N60 contour; and
- the 3, 6 and 12 event N60 contour for average daily events between 11pm and 6am.

It would be particularly useful if the information was presented in a format which would allow the first four measures to be overlaid.

As an alternative approach, the Department is able to undertake the analysis using the Transparent Noise Information Package if your airport is able to provide the underlying Integrated Noise Model data.

I believe we currently have an opportunity to positively influence land use planning outcomes where there may be noise impacts from aircraft operations. Access to up to date and robust modelling will be necessary to assist planning authorities to understand the likely impacts on areas in the vicinity of airports.

The Department would be happy to discuss this request in more detail or to provide additional information about the NASAG process. The contact officer is Scott Stone, General Manager, Aviation Environment, telephone 02 6274 7605 or email [scott.stone@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:scott.stone@infrastructure.gov.au). Your response by Friday 14 October 2011 would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

John Doherty  
Executive Director  
Aviation and Airports

August 2011