



Jerrabomberra Residents Association Inc.

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Proposed Planning Policy – Canberra Airport
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
PO Box 5474
Wollongong NSW 2520

Email: Martin.Brown@planning.nsw.gov.au
cc: Brett.Whitworth@planning.nsw.gov.au

Proposed S 117 Ministerial Direction

Dear Sir,

The Jerrabomberra Residents Association (JRA) was established in the earliest days of settlement of the suburb and has actively advocated the interests of the local community for over twenty years. Monthly meetings open to the entire community consider issues and determine policy positions.

The May meeting of the JRA resolved to respond to the consultation on the Draft Ministerial Section 117 Direction expressing our grave concerns at unnecessary concerns for the welfare of Canberra Airport at the expense of community expectations in relation to development of south Jerrabomberra.

For over ten years, the JRA has been engaged with the proponent of residential development in South Jerrabomberra, Village Building Company, the Queanbeyan Council and officers of Planning NSW in relation to the provision of a range of community and education facilities which cannot be accommodated within the precinct of the existing suburb. Over this time Village Building Company has negotiated in a transparent manner and worked constructively to reach agreement on a range of facilities.

At the same time the owner of Canberra Airport as part of his campaign to deny development and thus community facilities, manipulated the Commonwealth's approval processes to extend the ANEF contours further south by a distance of several kilometres. This has contracted the amount of land available for development.

In an extraordinary concession to Canberra Airport Minister Hazzard has further contributed to the contraction of developable land by limiting housing in South Tralee to areas outside the 20 ANEF.

This has the potential to deny the critical mass of development necessary to provide the education and community facilities lacking in this suburb.

In a media release dated Wednesday 24 April 2013, Deputy Director General Richard Pearson said that the proposal to protect the 24 hour operation of Canberra was in response

“to concerns expressed by the Commonwealth Government, the ACT Government and the aviation industry.”

There is no reference to active consultation with the local community or concern for the impacts on their expectations and property rights.

At the same time as Queanbeyan and Jerrabomberra residents are denied consultation, residents in the Lower Hunter Valley have had consultation on local planning proposals extended by a month, with a series of community meetings to enable feedback and direct communication.

Within the community there is a great deal of concern and confusion over the proposed Ministerial Direction. Residents are resentful of the sycophantic concessions to the pleas of the Commonwealth, the ACT and Canberra Airport. Many are concerned that contrary to the assurances that “there will be no change to landholder’s rights,” when in fact property rights have been violated, and are extinguished by the proposed Ministerial Direction. You claim to have contacted all landowners affected yet one householder at our May meeting well within the existing 20 ANEF, claims to have no approach from Government. You fail to realise that from past experience Canberra Airport will continue to expand its 20 ANEF thus bringing more landowners into the constraining orbit of the Ministerial Direction. Were the households contacted? The lack of opportunity for face to face discussion with planning experts has given rise to scepticism about the motives of the Government.

Among the questions raised at the meeting, was the query “If the NSW Government is planning to change the rules to suit Canberra Airport, are other State Governments doing the same with their major airports,” and if no why not, and why in Jerrabomberra.

Indeed one is entitled to ask the question why the NSW Government is prepared to change the rules in relation to Canberra Airport, why not change the rules in relation to Sydney Airport.

This decision on the Ministerial Direction should be delayed to enable the Minister to publicly brief the residents of the three Municipalities affected, and to respond to their concerns about discriminatory policies applied solely to our community

Yours Sincerely



Michael Ziebell
JRA President