

## **Comments on Proposed Future Development around the Canberra Airport**

### Overview

We Don't Support the Draft Planning Proposal for the Canberra Airport Proposal as it DOES NOT:

1. Adequately recognise and address the negative impact that a 24 hour curfew free passenger and freight operation has on a significant number of residents in the Queanbeyan region, specifically those in Fernleigh Park;
2. Take into consideration the social, economic and civil rights of those people that live in the Airport's self-designated 'ANEF 20 Contour'; nor
3. Substantiate why the Canberra Airport should have the authority to designate such proposed zoning, without due consideration to local planning needs nor the rights to the legal owners of the properties to which is affects.

### Background

We purchased our property and home in Googong in 2000. The property is in direct line of sight of the Canberra Airport however according to the plans provided on NSW Planning and Infrastructure website our property is just outside of the ANEF area designated by the Canberra Airport Corporation.

### Issues

#### *Defining the ANEF 20 Contour*

Prior to April 2009, we were unaware that our property was potentially located within the Canberra Airport's then defined "High Noise Corridor". At no time during purchasing our property, were we advised nor consulted about our property potentially being in such a designated area.

We are advised that the assumptions made in the Canberra Airport's Master Plan are flawed and agreed that they should be assessed by an independent expert and validated, as a priority.

It is unacceptable that another party can unilaterally designate another person's property as part of a proposed "ANEF", without consulting them and obtaining their agreement, and then propose to direct some 200 plus aircraft to fly over their property 24 hours per day, seven days per week for their own commercial advantage. It is also unacceptable that this can mean that development in the area will be stopped, despite residents not agreeing to the proposal nor the assessment rating.

We are being discriminated against, and our human and civil rights are being violated as our ability to make fully informed decisions about the future plans for our most valuable asset, our family home and property, will be negatively affected due to the proposed assessment and downgrading by a third party (the Canberra Airport). The Canberra Airport's Draft Planning Proposal will significantly negatively impact on our future livelihood, financial resources and general wellbeing, if endorsed. We don't agree to this action.

Fernleigh Park being identified as part of the 'ANEF', resulting in dramatically reduced future development is unjust, unfair and inequitable for all the residents who reside here. Airport noise should be experienced equally by all Canberra suburbs and surrounding communities and the impact not directed unfairly towards one area and made within credible data and evidence to support its determination.

Who has given them the right to define?

Who will pay for the consequences of their decisions?

*Consideration of the economic and social impact?*

At no time have we been directly consulted about nor offered any consideration for the loss of livelihood, expected drop in property value and noise abatement work that may be needed at our property to reduce noise and possible structural impact on it due to increase aircraft movements over and around our home (if the Airport's assumptions do happen to be correct).

Constantly directing planes over the same residential areas is not sensible, fair, equitable nor acceptable. Alternative solutions exist such as directing planes to fly along the Monaro Highway, rather than over thousands of homes.

No one should experience aircraft noise over their home, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. We support the implementation of a curfew for Canberra and implementation of consistent planning laws for other similar locations around Australian airports. Canberra should not be a special case.

The issues need to be addressed now. There are alternative solutions for the betterment of all.

*Need for Proper Public Consultation*

*Public consultation* is defined as a process by which the public's input on matters affecting them is sought. Its main goals are in improving the efficiency, transparency and public involvement in large-scale projects or laws and policies. It usually involves notification (to publicise the matter to be consulted on), consultation (a two-way flow of information and opinion exchange) as well as participation (involving interest groups in the drafting of policy or legislation).

The development and consultative processes relating to the Draft Planning Proposal have been unacceptable and passive. We have not been adequately consulted on the future plans for the Canberra Airport. We have raised this issue at a public meeting in Brindabella Park. At this meeting we requested information on future public meetings and copies of the meeting notes, both which were never supplied despite providing contact details to the meeting organisers.

We regularly attend community meetings in this area and aircraft noise, and future plans for the Canberra Airport are usually raised as issues of significant concern. Consultation is two way.

Where is the proper consultation that is needed? Why hasn't it happened?

The big corporate players dictating the future development and resultant downgrading in value of family homes and properties owned by working Australians is not acceptable. The airport owners and management should be open and transparent, work collaboratively with the local planning authority, take the concerns of affected residents seriously and commit to true consultation and only when the majority of residents agree, should future planning decisions that affect them be made. This is a democracy and our rights must be respected.

Submission Date: 23 May 2013