Comments on Draft Planning Proposal – Canberra Airport

I wish to register my very strongest objection to the proposed extension of land development restrictions to my property through the extension of the definition of what constitutes permitted residential land and I also object to the very limited time that has been made available for us to submit our comments.

The letter from Mr Brett Whitworth of the department of planning and infrastructure (that was only addressed to my wife) is undated and gave very little notice of a requirement to submit our comments by 10 May. We have been away from our residence on holidays and returned to find this letter and that the deadline had expired. It smacks of collusion with the Canberra Airport Corporation to take away my property rights to advance their money making activities. Maybe an ICAC is warranted here.

I have been advised that the proposed imposition of the ANEF 20 standard to our property is unique in Australian planning to properties around airports. I believe that this can not be justified and it seems that half the Molonglo and Jerrabomberra valleys are to be quarantined in this way.

I am also most annoyed that my local member is only concerned with future expansion of the ANEF 20 area and not with this current despicable attack on my property rights.

I find it objectionable that the Canberra Airport can just draw lines on a map to their own ends and take away my property rights with the stroke of a pen. I find it annoying enough that I have to put up with the current level of aircraft noise without this proposal that will lock in a future of potentially ever increasing noise.

Just one small corner of my property comes within the scope of this proposal but will affect my entire property. With the Googong development only 1.6 kms away from my residence I had considered that there may be a future opportunity or potential for me or my family to further subdivide my 20 acre block. Just having the potential to subdivide would add value to my property. This proposal not only prohibits that consideration, but will see the value of my property drop as this avenue is closed and the potential for increased aircraft noise at all hours of the night.

The Airport's proposal for an international freight hub is not viable. I myself once investigated the potential for this when I was employed as a senior manager with the international freight company Federal Express Corp. We found that our major customers were located in Sydney and Melbourne, not Canberra and the costs of trucking all the freight from Canberra to the ultimate destinations was far in excess of any savings from moving operations from Sydney and Melbourne to Canberra.

Please do not throw away my future on wishful thinking by the Canberra Airport management.

Peter Wallace Googong NSW