

Canberra Airport
2 Brindabella Circ
BRINDABELLA AIRPORT ACT 2609



MAY 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to your invitation for public comment on your 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan I wish to make the following objections:

Inadequate Information on Aircraft Noise

You propose to operate a 24 hour freight hub at Canberra Airport. This is a significant change to the current usage of the airport, involving bigger, noisier and more frequent planes. The community has the right to know how a freight hub would impact on our homes, and particularly our sleeping hours. I do not consider that your draft Master Plan discharges this onus of proof, because your information is neither accessible, nor accurate. You state that "no residents within the ACT ... will be exposed at any time to noise of 65 decibels ..." (page 80). However, existing 737 aircraft regularly generate 65 decibels and over in Hackett according the new Hackett Noise Monitor (see Web Track at www.cbr.webtrak-lochard.com). Independent noise information is crucial to any meaningful community consultation on the proposed 24 hour freight hub, and I, therefore, request the right to further comment after an independent noise expert, appointed by the ACT Government, reports later this year.

Unacceptable Disturbance of Sleep

There are clear standards from the World Health Organisation about the noise levels at which sleep disturbance occurs, and the consequent adverse impacts on health. These must be recognised. Your claims that existing aircraft noise protection measures will adequately protect residents from future aircraft noise are not supported by any evidence and I have no confidence in them. You are encroaching on our treasured peace and quiet, which once lost will be gone forever. Sydney residents have their sleep protected from aircraft noise by a curfew from 11pm to 6am. As Canberra is a much quieter city than Sydney, particularly at night when traffic noise is minimal, I expect that a curfew from 10pm to 7am is of equivalent value to that of Sydney, and represents a right for Canberra residents.

My requests

- A night time curfew on aircraft movements from 10pm to 7am
- No 24 hour freight hub or second Sydney airport
- Recognition of health standards regarding sleep disturbance

Filomena Barzi and Ian Kershaw
Ainslie ACT 2602

30 April 2009