



- 6 MAY 2009

Canberra Airport
2 Brindabella Circuit
Brindabella Business Park
CANBERRA ACT 2609

Melba ACT 2615

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following your invitation for public comment on your 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan I would like to provide the following comments.

My main concern is that a 24 hour freight hub at Canberra Airport is proposed. It seems inevitable that this will result in bigger, noisier planes using the airport at times when people are trying to sleep. This is particularly so for those suburbs such as Hackett or Campbell that are closer to the airport. However, it is also unclear if the suburb where I live will be free from such impacts. I do not believe that the possible impacts of noise are adequately addressed in the Draft Master Plan. In addition, the increase in aircraft movements increases the risk of noise impacts as does the potential for Canberra Airport to become the de facto second Sydney Airport.

The draft plan states that 'no residents within the ACT...will be exposed at any time to noise over 65 decibels...' (page 80), but I understand that existing 737 aircraft regularly generate noise levels in excess of 65 decibels in Hackett according to the new Hackett Noise Monitor (see WebTrak at www.cbr.webtrak-lochard.com). The ACT Government is obviously concerned about this issue as indicated by its appointment of an independent noise expert. Until this expert has reported there is not enough information available to support meaningful community consultation on the proposed 24-hour freight hub. Consequently the community needs to have further opportunities for comment when more information is available. The draft plan should certainly not be approved before this has occurred.

The need for and importance of undisturbed sleep is becoming acknowledged. 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. As noted previously evidence about possible noise impacts is lacking so there is no guarantee that existing aircraft noise protection measures will adequately protect residents in the future.

It will be too late to do anything once a freight hub is established. Therefore a precautionary approach is required. Other Australians living near airports, such as in Sydney, have their sleep protected by a curfew from 11pm to 6am. The same should apply in Canberra.

The following measures need to be implemented: a night time curfew on aircraft movements from 11pm to 6 am, no development of a 24 hour freight hub or de facto second Sydney airport and formal recognition of relevant international health standards regarding sleep disturbance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Derrick".

Jim Derrick

4 May 2009