

CANBERRA
28 APR 2008

D.R. & N.O. KAHER
JERRABOMBERRA NSW 2619

25th April 2008

The Manager,
Canberra Airport,
Brindabella Circuit,
Brindabella Business Park,
CANBERRA AIRPORT ACT 2609

Dear Sir/Madame,

Response to your invitation for public comment on your Preliminary Draft Master Plan we would like to make the following comments:-

You propose to operate a 24 hour freight hub at Canberra Airport. This is a significant change to the existing usage of the airport, involving bigger, noisier and more frequent planes over a 24-hour period. How will this impact on our homes and our sleeping hours? We do not think 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 over 65 decibels." (Page 80). But existing 737 aircraft regularly generate 65+ decibels in Hackett according to the new Hackett Noise Monitor (see Web Trak at www.cbr.webtrack-lochard.com). You mention the residents of the ACT, but what about the residents in Jerrabomberra and the surrounding NSW areas? Independent noise information is crucial to any meaningful community consultation and therefore we request the right to further comment after the noise expert appointed by the ACT Government reports later this year.

Unacceptable Disturbances of Sleep

There are clear standards from the WHO on noise levels at which sleep disturbances occur with the consequent adverse impacts on health and wellbeing. These must be recognised. The evidence does not support your claims that existing aircraft noise protection measures will protect residents from future aircraft noise, and we have no confidence in them. Even now aircraft frequently do not adhere to the required flight paths over Jerrabomberra.

Traffic and Environmental Issues

The use of Canberra Airport as a freight hub for Sydney airport raises traffic and environmental issues as it will result in increased traffic in both directions on the Hume Highway. As well as shipping the freight to Sydney with the inevitable return of empty trucks, it will also mean the

shipping of fuel from Sydney, again with the return of empty trucks. This is a traffic and environmental issue of some importance.

Our requests

1. A nighttime curfew on aircraft movements from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.
2. No 24-hour freight hub or second Sydney airport at Canberra.
3. Recognition of health standards regarding sleep disturbance
4. An investigation into the traffic and environmental consequences of the proposed freight hub at Canberra.

Yours sincerely,


D.R. & N.O. Kafer

