



8 MAY 2009

CAMPBELL ACT 2612

6 May '09

Canberra Airport
2 Brindabella Circuit
Brindabella Business Park
CANBERRA AIRPORT ACT 2609

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing in response to your invitation for public comment on your 2009 Preliminary Draft Master Plan and wish to submit the following views.

We object to the proposal to operate a 24 hours/day/7 days a week freight hub. This represents a significant escalation to the current usage of the airport and will involve bigger, noisier and more frequent aircraft movements. Already the noise of what seems to be regular (and unannounced??) movements of aircraft between the hours of about 11.30pm and 06.30am disturbs our sleeping hours. Your statement that no residents within the ACT will be exposed to noise AT ANY TIME over 65 decibels appears to be quite incorrect. We are unaware of any INDEPENDENT noise assessment which has been undertaken which confirms this assertion. Such is critical to any meaningful consultation and community education. The assessment being undertaken by the person appointed by the ACT Government therefore is most important. Community consultation will only have substance and credibility when undertaken with this kind of assessment to hand and in the public arena.

Your claims that current aircraft noise protection measures will adequately protect residents from future aircraft noise simply do not stand up. You only have to live in the airport's proximity (such as Campbell) to know that existing measures do not protect residents now in the wee small hours, let alone the future. We have lived close to an airport in Europe which was eventually closed down. A substantial contributing factor to this outcome was the increase in the frequency of aircraft movements and the failure to redress the impact of noise levels on residents. Health standards relating to disturbed sleep have not been adequately addressed.

A further factor flowing from a 24 hour freight hub would be the inevitable and substantial increase in frequency of night hours truck traffic and its noise along suburban arterial roads such as Fairbairn, Limestone, and Northbourne Avenues and impacting on nearby residential areas.

We have no objection to Canberra being either a second Sydney Airport or a freight hub or indeed both, but residents must be able to enjoy the same peace and quiet as those in Sydney ie. a curfew between 11pm and 6am, and road and especially rail links would need to be substantially improved.

Yours sincerely


Roger and Regula Neilson

cc. Mr A. Albanese, Federal Minister for Transport; Mr J Stanhope MLA, Chief Minister, ACT;
Mr Shane Rattenbury, MLA, ACT.