

Friday, 27 April 2007

IT'S OFFICIAL, AIRCRAFT NOISE-SHARING IS COMING TO QUEANBEYAN AND CANBERRA

A statement by Stephen Byron, Managing Director, Canberra International Airport.

With one ill-conceived stroke of his ministerial pen, Mr. Sartor, aided and abetted by Queanbeyan Mayor, Frank Pangallo, and Monaro MP, Steve Whan, has condemned future generations of people to live with the devastating impacts of aircraft noise, in other words, a life of living hell. Based on official information available to us, around 30 percent of people presently living in Queanbeyan and Canberra are going to be forced to live, breathe and struggle to sleep as aircraft fly directly over their homes.

Put a community under a flight path, as Mr Sartor now proposes, and they will complain. There's absolutely no doubt about it and, because Tralee is situated in a bellwether electorate, both at the state and federal level, the residents will rightly and successfully force change. The inevitable result of that change will be noise-sharing for Queanbeyan and Canberra because there is nowhere else for the aircraft to fly. Lose Tralee and we lose the only non-residential flight path to the south of the Airport.

Long after Mr Sartor, Mayor Pangallo and Mr Whan have departed the scene; the people of Queanbeyan and Canberra are going to have to live with the folly of this decision. We are not prepared to let this happen. We will continue to work with the community and the ACT and Commonwealth Government's to do all that we can to block this act of planning madness.

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