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Federal Airport Safety Paper Slams Plans To Build Under Flight Paths

The NSW Department of Planning and the Federal Government are headed for a showdown following the release this week of a major airport safety paper that rejects the development of housing under airport flight paths.

The report, "Safeguards for airports and the communities around them" from the Federal Department of Infrastructure comes at the same time the NSW Department of Planning is considering rezoning a 400 hectares greenfield site under the Canberra Airport flight path.

The development at Tralee, outside Queanbeyan, would allow thousands of homes to be built under the Canberra Airport flight paths.

In the discussion paper, the Commonwealth says "It is essential that airports are protected from off-airport development that could undermine their safety or operational efficiency".

Mr Stephen Byron, Managing Director of Canberra Airport, said the paper confirms the view held by most reasonable people that building homes under flight paths anywhere in Australia is just bad planning.

"And just last week Commonwealth Transport Minister, Anthony Albanese, said he wanted to review all options for airport capacity for Sydney.

"But if Tralee goes ahead it will cut out the possibility of Canberra Airport dealing with some of the traffic problems that Sydney Airport will face over the coming years.

"Given the Commonwealth's clear position on building under flight paths it is now time for the NSW Premier to step in and put a hold on this development before it goes too far," Mr Byron said.

Attention news editors

Stephen Byron, Managing Director of Canberra Airport, is available to provide comment.

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