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Our Ref: NOLTRA

2 November 2012

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister *Anthony*,

**South Tralee rezoning proposal - Aircraft Noise – Queanbeyan NSW**

The NSW Planning Minister, Mr Brad Hazzard has been reported on 1 November 2012 to be preparing to rezone part of South Tralee for residential “having found the right balance” between “so called protection of Canberra Airport operations and providing residential land supply”. Mike Kelly, member for Eden Monaro informs me that he knows of this “balanced” proposal and supports it. This proposal, if approved, will constrain the operation and growth of Canberra Airport.

Thank you for your robust opposition to any rezoning of South Tralee that permits residential homes. Thank you also for your insight and understanding of the conflict that unacceptable aircraft noise can cause between the community and airports, airlines and governments and which always end in artificial operating constraints on the airport and airlines and bad politics.

The Keating Federal Labour Government in 1995 implemented world leading noise abatement procedures to protect the Queanbeyan and Canberra residential suburbs from aircraft noise, in co-operation with the airlines and Airservices Australia. As Queanbeyan grew south into Karabah and Jerrabomberra between 1985 and 1995 residents complained and the former flight paths were moved away when the noise Abatement Areas were created. Residents living within these noise abatement areas do not experience and therefore do not know what unacceptable aircraft noise is like.

Since 1996 over 600 homes have been built in Queanbeyan outside the Queanbeyan Noise Abatement Area mainly at Jerrabomberra. These and nearby residents of Jerrabomberra have lobbied the council who have then joined forces with the residents to lobby the Federal Government. This lobbying has achieved three (3) additional noise respite procedures for these residents. All of these respite procedures have moved flight paths to the west of Jerrabomberra to be over and nearby South Tralee i.e. some of the aircraft noise that is unacceptable to Jerrabomberra is now over Tralee.

There are now more than 160,000 homes in Canberra and Queanbeyan, housing over 400,000 residents benefiting from living in Noise Abatement Areas created in 1995. Canberra Airport has undertaken studies in consultation with the ACT and NSW planning agencies that confidently suggest that over 1,000,000 residents - that's right, more than 150% increase in population - can be housed in Canberra and the sub-region without one (1) more house being sited under flight paths and exposed to unacceptable aircraft noise.

The South Tralee proposal could create 1,200 new homes that may house 3,000 people (less than 0.5% of existing residents) in an incompatible site exposed to unacceptable aircraft noise. The outcome would mean that 3,000 residents sited in incompatible locations will lobby for aircraft noise respite and benefit from less aircraft noise whilst the ACT and Region community will lose economic and social benefits due to operational constraints on the Airport and noise sharing.

I write to you in frustration that this stupid planning decision may happen within days. I request that you urgently arrange to suspend the Queanbeyan noise abatement procedures for one (1) month so that the residents of Queanbeyan understand what unacceptable aircraft noise is and what their Council, State Government and local members are likely to expose them to unacceptable aircraft noise when noise sharing is implemented in the future. || \*

I know this drastic action is against everything that you, Canberra Airport, the Airlines and Airservices Australia have worked co-operatively for in the past in response to community concerns. The Queanbeyan Council, NSW Government and the local members just don't get it, rezoning any of South Tralee for residential homes is trouble.

I invite you to ring me to discuss this request.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Byron  
Managing Director