

18 February 2008

Canberra International Airport
1/2 Brindabella Circuit
CANBERRA AIRPORT ACT 2609

Dear Sir/Madam

2008 PRELIMINARY DRAFT MASTER PLAN

In response to your invitation for public comment on your 2008 Preliminary Draft Master Plan we wish to make the following comments.

Unacceptable Increase in Aircraft Noise

I object to the way that the Master Plan effectively dismisses any aircraft noise issues outside of the high noise corridors. Canberra residents outside the high noise corridors for aircraft take-offs and landings do experience significant noise disturbance and this will increase dramatically under the planned airport expansion. In Hackett, we wake each morning to the flights taking off between 6.00am and 6.30am and our sleep is also disturbed by the current occasional night landing where the night temperature inversion which exists throughout most of the year channels noise from the airport over Mount Ainslie and into the eastern suburbs of Canberra. The jet reverse thrusts are very noisy at night and disturb our sleep and I can only imagine that larger cargo aircraft utilising the 24-hour international freight hub will be even noisier. Any take-offs at night would definitely disturb our sleep as well.

Curfew is Essential

We accept that growth of the Canberra Airport is inevitable and will bring benefits to Canberra. Consequently, we accept that increasing daytime traffic including the larger passenger and freight aircraft will mean increasing noise in Hackett and the other affected eastern suburbs of Canberra outside of the high noise corridors. While this will substantially affect what has been a quiet and enjoyable suburb in which to live we accept this potential situation in the interests of Canberra's development.

However, while we are prepared to accept increasing daytime traffic, we are not prepared to accept the proposed commercial nighttime aircraft movements. Without a nighttime curfew we will be subjected to unacceptable levels of aircraft noise. The projected levels of nighttime traffic will mean that affected residents adjacent to the high noise corridors will no longer get a good night's sleep with consequences for their health. A nighttime curfew on commercial traffic movements is essential to protect our health and environment.

Yours sincerely

(Peter and Sue, Hackett Residents)