

Aviation Green Paper response

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From: Eve Newsome

1. I agree that the Air Noise Ombudsman (ANO) must be independent of Airservices Australia otherwise the public will continue to have no faith in its ability to objectively investigate complaints without a conflict of interest. At the moment it does not have 'teeth' because it is seen as being connected to Airservices Australia and their own interests.
2. I support the proposition that Airservices Australia must improve their communication with the public and also that they must be able to provide details of the community feedback they receive and how this influences their decision-making processes. Currently it is very unclear as to what effect or influence complaints and feedback have on their decisions. This process needs to be transparent particularly as they are tasked with engaging with the community on any proposed changes that would affect them.
3. The noise regulations over residential areas definitely need to be improved as currently they are not meeting the needs of communities who suffer with aircraft noise. More efficient and accurate noise monitoring needs to be done to show what the reality of the noise levels are, especially in high density areas.
4. In terms of noise alleviation, it is very disappointing to see that several times within the green paper it states that the Federal government is not intending to introduce any new curfews anywhere in Australia. It is evident that the aviation industry will be growing substantially over the next decade and this will cause the noise levels to rise particularly over our cities. Given that the noise alleviation strategies such as changes to engines suggested in the Green paper will have to be introduced over time it seems crucial to introduce curfews before the noise levels become extreme. The Federal Government should be considering curfews as an important part of permanent noise alleviation strategies in places such as Brisbane where no curfew currently exists. It could be argued that Brisbane and its residents have the same right to an official (not voluntary) night-time curfew as other large cities such as Sydney who currently have one. It should be a basic and equal right of all Australian citizens to have a quiet night-time in order to function optimally during the day and lead healthy lives.