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The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Report

Being a report that the
Committee has been unable to
complete its inquiry into
aircraft noise

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AIRCRAFT NOISE INQUIRY

TERMS OF REFERENCE

That the Committee inquire into and report on the effects of aircraft operations on the environment surrounding airports including, but not limited to:

- (a) the extent of the impact of aircraft noise on -
 - (i) the health and welfare of persons, institutions and communities
 - (ii) property and property values adjacent to major metropolitan airports;
- (b) the effectiveness of administrative procedures and regulations (including curfews), designed to lessen noise, and the monitoring of such procedures and regulations;
- (c) the extent to which aircraft noise should be taken into account in establishing priorities and programs for the development of existing airports and the building of new airports within and adjacent to major urban areas;
- (d) compensation schemes for aircraft noise operating in the United Kingdom and other countries and the effect of those schemes on airport planning and development;
- (e) the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments to legislate for the adequate control of aircraft noise and how these powers could be used for that purpose;
- (f) the effects of aircraft operations - other than noise - on property;
- (g) the effect of aircraft engine emission on people and property; and
- (h) such other matters which the Committee decided should be drawn to the attention of the House.

Membership of the Committee

Chairman	Mr P. Milton, M.P.
Deputy Chairman	Mr D.M. Connolly, M.P.
Members	Mr M.A. Burr, M.P. Mr R.L. Chynoweth, M.P. Mr R.F. Edwards, M.P. Mr G. Gear, M.P. Mr A.A. Morris M.P. The Hon. I.L. Robinson, M.P.
Secretary to the Committee	Mr John Cummins Tel (062) 72 6729

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Environment and Conservation

REPORT

Being a Report that the Committee has been
unable to complete its inquiry into Aircraft Noise.

September 1984

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Terms of Reference of the Committee

- (1) That a standing committee be appointed to inquire into and report on -
- (a) environmental aspects of legislative and administrative measures which ought to be taken in order to ensure the wise and effective management of the Australian environment and of Australia's natural resources, and
 - (b) such other matters relating to the environment and conservation and the management of Australia's natural resources as are referred to it by -
 - (i) resolution of the House, or
 - (ii) the Minister responsible for those matters.

Members of the Committee

Chairman	Mr P. Milton, M.P.
Deputy Chairman	Mr D.M. Connolly, M.P.
Members	Mr M.A. Burr, M.P. Mr R.L. Chynoweth, M.P. Mr R.F. Edwards, M.P. Mr G. Gear, M.P. Mr A.A. Morris, M.P. The Hon. I.L. Robinson, M.P.
Secretary to the Committee	Mr J.R. Cummins

REPORT ON UNFINISHED INQUIRY INTO AIRCRAFT NOISE

1. On 21 June 1982 the then Minister for Aviation wrote to the Committee requesting that it inquire into all aspects of Aircraft Noise. The Committee accepted the reference. Following the re-appointment of the Committee in the 33rd Parliament the present Minister for Aviation re-referred the matter for inquiry with similar terms of reference. The inquiry's terms of reference are at Appendix 1.

2. The first public hearing was held in Canberra on 16 November 1982. Since the re-appointment of the Committee in the 33rd Parliament public hearings, informal discussions and inspections have been conducted in Launceston, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra. Over 3 000 pages of evidence have been taken and over 600 submissions and technical documents have been received. In most of the cities which the Committee visited public meetings were organised which were attended by as many as 200 people.

3. The inquiry is at an advanced stage. It is estimated that approximately 15 hours of public hearings and 2 or 3 days of interstate inspections will be required to complete the inquiry.

4. The inquiry is an important one. It has generated a great deal of public interest. In addition local government and the Minister for Aviation have indicated that policy decisions have been deferred until such time as the Committee reports.

5. It is assumed that a committee responsible for environmental matters will be established in the new Parliament. However different circumstances may result in a change of membership of the new committee. If the membership substantially changes the new committee will be faced with a daunting task. Not

only will it be required to assimilate many thousands of pages of evidence and many technical documents it will not have had the benefit of the informal discussions, special briefings or the extensive inspections of the present Committee.

6. It is believed that a Select Committee on Aircraft Noise should be appointed in the new Parliament to complete the inquiry and that its membership consist of a core of Members involved in the present inquiry. The inspections and public hearings required and the drafting of the report could be completed before the end of the first period of sittings in the 34th Parliament.

7. Accordingly the Committee recommends that:

- (a) a Select Committee on Aircraft Noise be appointed in the new Parliament;
- (b) the Select Committee established in the new Parliament have the power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation established in the 32nd and 33rd Parliaments; and
- (c) it be drawn to the attention of those nominating that if possible the Select Committee consist of 3 Government Members and 2 Opposition Members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation established in the 33rd Parliament.

(PETER MILTON)

Chairman

13 September 1984