

May 21st 2018

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Air Services Amendment Bill 2018

As residents of East Melbourne for the past 16 years, we wish to register our strong support of the above Bill. We understand that the Bill provides very important protection for communities affected by aircraft, which is currently not available under existing legislation.

We are a family with two school aged children living in Jolimont, in close proximity to the MCG. We have noticed the continual increase in both commercial and other air craft flying over the areas creating stressful noise pollution, sleep deprivation and raising serious safety concerns.

The aircraft noise has increased significantly in recent months, regularly waking us and our children (especially problematic on a school/work mornings and nights!). We also find telephone conversations and listening to the television and radio difficult.

There are frequently low helicopter flights over our house, often roving and hovering for the duration of events (2 hrs) to film at the MCG or for traffic reporting and news. The noise and vibration caused by helicopters impact on us significantly to the extent that windows and doors shake.

We are also particularly concerned about the safety aspects. The MCG represents an acknowledged area of high terrorism threat as stated on the Australian Government National Security website;

*'While the symbolic appeal of an attack against a government or authority...elevates the threat to these entities, members of the public and **locations where large crowds congregate could also be attacked indiscriminately...** Additionally, an alleged complex terrorist plot to attack aviation disrupted in Sydney in July 2017 is a reminder that sophisticated terrorist plots targeting the West are possible.'* <https://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au/securityandyourcommunity/pages/national-terrorism-threat-advisory-system.aspx>

It is surely unacceptable to have **unregulated airspace** over or nearby major world class, high capacity venues and a major Australian city business district.

We strongly endorse the above Bill and request that it be passed into legislation. Should the Committee wish to discuss how the current situation affects our daily lives and our concerns, we would be happy to oblige.

Yours Sincerely,

Fiona Sotra

Joseph Sofra