

**SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO
AIRSERVICE AUSTRALIA'S
MANAGEMENT OF AIRCRAFT
NOISE.**

I am making this submission to the Committee in the hope that the Committee will recommend some kind of regulation to Airservices Australia. It appears from the current state of affairs that they are answerable to no-one and can affect people's quality of life without the option of public debate on the issue.

People living in the Hills around Perth bought in to the area because they value the lifestyle and are protective of the beautiful flora and fauna of the area. The houses built here reflect that love of nature and, in many cases, are pole homes constructed from timber. They have not been built with extra soundproofing to combat excessive noise as have those properties built close to airports and on flight paths. Additionally, the very nature of the environment around the Hills means that more people here spend much of their day outdoors (eg many of Perth's orchards are in the Roleystone/Karragullen area), and not in some City office. The constant droning of planes which fly so low as to shake the houses sometimes has completely ruined this lifestyle for many. It is planned that the Airport be doubled in size and the Government in its wisdom has decreed that no curfew will exist in Perth as it does in other Capital cities. The reason cited for this is "economic reasons" There has been no consultation whatsoever on this issue; no public debate; and indeed, it seems to have been done with the utmost secrecy.

Airservices Australia's official reason for changing the flight paths without consultation is that it did it for "safety reasons". What reasons? What has changed to make it suddenly unsafe for aircraft to follow their original flight paths? I would suggest that because the amount of air traffic is set to increase markedly over coming years, the likelihood of an accident is increased and on this basis the Bean Counters have assessed the risk and concluded that a plane coming down over the Hills would involve smaller Insurance payouts. It's purely an economic decision and the lives and livelihoods of the Hills dwellers count for nought.

A few things that the Bean Counters have not taken into account are the environmental factors which change with the increasing number of aircraft. We live in the catchment area of the Canning Dam – Perth's major source of drinking water. How much extra pollution will the area be exposed to when aircraft dispose of waste etc, or, worse still, jettison fuel, over these heavily forested areas. All residents have plans in place in case of Bush Fire, but it would be much harder to implement these plans and control the fires if they were aided by aircraft fuel dumped in the trees.

Already we are awakened at 3.45am by low flying planes, and these continue until about 1.00am. What's it going to be like when the number of planes is dramatically increased?

If you are able to question Airservices Australia, please try to

discover what has changed as far as “safety issues” are concerned to warrant this major change of flight paths. I suspect that the changes are zero and that it is just a matter of the residents and their lifestyles counting for nothing. Had I wanted to live amongst the constant noise of planes, I would have bought a property closer to the City with extra soundproofing etc to combat the noise. The people who did buy in the area close to the Airport did so for their own convenience in the full knowledge that they will have aircraft noise to some degree. This is not the case in the Hills. Hopefully you can do something to appease many angry residents.

Yours truly
J.G.Elsegood