

Re: Effectiveness of Air services Australia's management of aircraft noise.

My wife and I live in the Darling ranges in the suburb of Martin (WA) which is roughly due east of the Perth airport.

Since moving into this area nine years ago, the number of commercial jet aircraft flying over or near our house has increased significantly. These aircraft belonging to Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin and one other airline I can't identify (maybe SkyWest or Air Asia) fly to the Eastern States. Aircraft flying to Asia and other Northern hemisphere destinations thankfully do not pass over our locality.

As our house is close to the top of the ranges, the jets fly quite low overhead as they make their approach to, or depart from the airfield.

Consequently, we and everyone in our road and nearby roads are exposed to a considerable amount of aircraft noise, especially early mornings making it almost impossible to sleep.

The occasional aircraft in the middle of the night often causes an interruption to our sleep.

The aircraft noise is a considerable nuisance and ruins what would otherwise have been a quiet semi-rural setting for our retirement. Visitors have commented adversely on the amount of aircraft traffic and the noise. It's obvious from their comments that they regard our location to be in a flight path and therefore an undesirable locality. Clearly, the noise from aircraft is detrimental to the resale value of property.

The noise is at its worst when the sky is overcast with dense low cloud. The aircraft generally fly lower under the cloud which we assume is so that the pilots can sight the airfield and runway.

What can be done to minimise the noise?

Insulate the ceiling?

Our house already has R4 fibre bats in the ceiling space. Most home owners only install bats with a rating of R3. Extra ceiling insulation is unlikely to be effective.

Double glaze the windows.

Double glazing of windows should reduce noise ingress. If this were to be the solution I believe the Commonwealth should pay for this since major airfields in capital cities are (I think) Commonwealth property. A quasi precedent exists: wherever a new Freeway or major arterial road is constructed near housing, a solid high barrier is often constructed along side the road to protect houses from the noise. It seems inconsistent that with the inevitable increase in aircraft noise, nothing is done to reduce the noise impacting on homes directly under the flight path.

Change the flight path

Probably the most cost effective solution. To the north of Feldts and Versteeg roads is a large area of native forest classified as a water catchment reserve for the Bickley and Victoria Reservoir. This large reserve is bounded by Versteeg road to the south and Welshpool road to the North and extends eastward to Canning road where it adjoins State Forest that extends even further eastward until it meets broad acre farmlands near the country town of Brookton. This huge tract of bushland should provide a corridor for aircraft. Unfortunately, **it probably isn't wide enough for two-way traffic.** However, the early morning traffic is mostly incoming, and several hours later it's mostly outgoing. This one corridor should suffice in that situation.

Moderate engine noise – fly quieter

Cars can be driven in a manner that creates a lot of unnecessary noise, or be driven quietly. It seems jet aircraft can also. Some seem to fly over with less engine noise than others. It seems to vary with their velocity. Some departing aircraft accelerate much more loudly than others. Surely pilots can be instructed to minimise the noise from their engines as they descend and approach housing in the Darling ranges? **Thankfully, the 747's have been retired, but the twin engine turbo props are by far the worst offenders. Not many of these.**

Ban East-West flights from 2200 hours to 0600 hours into/ex Perth.

Some other major capital cities have an embargo on night flights. This would be some compensation for the noise which will only increase over time.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Havlik