

UNCLASSIFIED
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

FOR: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP cc:	eWorks Number: 04637-2009	For Decision by: 26 June 2009
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SUBJECT: NSW Government decision to approve residential and other development under Canberra Airport's southern flight paths in Tralee.

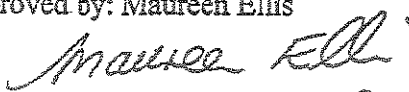
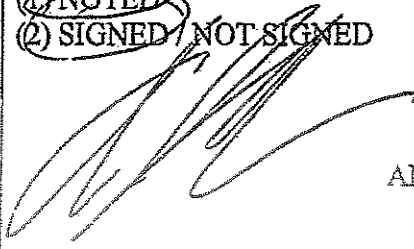
Recommendation: That you:

1. Note that you have received a number of representations expressing concern with the NSW Government's decision to allow aircraft noise sensitive development in the area of Tralee and that this decision has potential implications for the Australian Government; and
2. Sign the attached letter to the NSW Premier, the Hon Nathan Rees MP outlining your position; your desire to implement a national land use planning strategy to avoid noise sensitive development near airports; and your concerns that the Tralee development may constrain options relating to the national network of major airports.

Key Issues:

- In December 2008, the NSW Planning Minister, the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, on the recommendation of an independent NSW Planning Review Panel, approved the revised Queanbeyan Council Strategy Map as part of its Residential and Economic Strategy 2031 which allows for aircraft noise sensitive developments, including residences and a school in Tralee.
- The targeted timeframe for rezoning of Stage 1 lands is mid 2009 and we understand residential construction could commence as early as September 2009. A map of the development areas relative to the ANEF contour for Canberra Airport is attached.
- While the NSW proposal is legally within the current land use system, it is inevitable that construction of residences and a school under the flight path will lead to calls for noise insulation and an airport curfew.
- Since the latest NSW Government decision, representations have been received by your office from the [REDACTED] and Canberra Airport expressing concern and requesting you re-confirm the Federal Government's stance on this issue by writing to the NSW Premier.
- The National Aviation Policy Statement Green Paper includes the concept for a national land use planning framework to be agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to avoid noise sensitive development around airports and under flight paths.
- The NSW Government's decision may be at odds with any future land use planning outcomes agreed through COAG and the existence of noise sensitive buildings under the flight path could put paid to any potential for Canberra Airport as a freight hub or to remain curfew free.
- The Department recommends you write to the NSW Premier, copied to the NSW Planning Minister, the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, and the Member for Eden-Monaro, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP, expressing concern with NSW's decision.

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Approved by: Maureen Ellis  Signature: _____ 23/6/2009 Contact No.: 6274 8087	 ANTHONY ALBANESE 24/6/2009

Sensitivity:

The proposed incompatible development under flight paths in Tralee will have noise implications for residents and in all likelihood result in increased calls to limit operations at Canberra Airport.

Canberra Airport's present curfew-free status and its potential role in Australia's overnight airfreight network could be jeopardized if it were to come under additional pressure from increased community concerns about night time aircraft noise.

Attachments:

- A. Draft letter to the Hon Nathan Rees MP, NSW Premier.
- B. A map of the development areas relative to the ANEF contour for Canberra Airport.

Background

Rezoning and residential development by Queanbeyan City Council under the southern flight paths of Canberra Airport have been a contentious issue for many years (Jerrabomberra Estate 1980s; the Poplars late 1990s; and Tralee since 2002) and you have previously raised concerns with the NSW Government. Since Minister Keneally's recent decision to allow the rezoning of this land, representations from Canberra Airport, [REDACTED] have been received by your office requesting you re-confirm the Federal Government's stance on this issue.

It should be noted the current flight path over Tralee was introduced as a noise abatement strategy to reduce noise impact on Jerrabomberra residents. Development in Tralee is likely to result in noise sharing requirements which will impact on communities not currently subject to aircraft noise.

The majority of residential development proposed for Tralee is between the 20 and 25 ANEF contour (see map at Attachment B). Under AS2021, residential development is marginal in this zone and requires measures such as insulation. While the remaining portion of the residential development is located outside the 20 ANEF contour, experience from airports in Australia and overseas shows that the impact of aircraft noise does not stop at a contour. Future communities will find that the level of aircraft noise in Tralee will impact on community amenity and there is every likelihood future homebuilders will seek assistance from the Federal Government for additional noise attenuation or restrictions on airport operations. Canberra Airport is a significant national asset that makes a considerable contribution to the region, including a large part of NSW.

It is recommended you write to the NSW Premier, the Hon Nathan Rees MP, copied to the NSW Planning Minister, the Hon Kristina Keneally MP, and the Hon Dr Mike Kelly MP, the Member for Eden-Monaro:

- restating the concerns regarding incompatible noise sensitive development;
- asking any incompatible development in Tralee be postponed to allow time to consider a national land use approach as identified in the Green Paper and a review of the ANEF system; and
- identifying the implications and subsequent impact of the proposed development on Canberra Airport and its development which is important to the NSW/ACT region.