

February 2010

To the Senate Standing Reference Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport – aircraft noise in Bickley

Regrettably I missed the meeting at Mundaring on February 3rd, I would have welcomed the opportunity to share our extreme discomfort. I am writing to BEG you to stop flying aircraft over Bickley in Western Australia.

Bickley is fairly high in the landscape so all planes fly relatively low over us and we get the noise reverberating around the district from horizon to horizon, not just for the few seconds overhead. Even inside our rammed earth house the noise is very noticeable, particularly early in the morning when we are trying to have a few last moments sleep or when we are having breakfast on the veranda, but also every time a plane flies over. It is like suddenly having a busy freeway built over the top of our house.

We do not have background noise like other suburbs – no busy roads, trucks, trains, trailbikes etc to mask the noise. It would be different if we had moved to an area where aircraft noise was common. But we did not. This suburb has been peaceful for as long as it has existed. That is why people live here.

I would dearly love to subject those who made this decision to the same unjustness. Not only is it the noise and vibrations of a single aircraft but a constant stream of them from early morning – every few minutes. And not just for a few seconds while the plane is overhead – but well over a minute each time as the plane flies from horizon to horizon. There is often very little break between planes. We live on edge waiting for the next plane to fly over.

They fly over us and then bank off sharply to the northeast. They seem to be making a special effort to fly directly over us. Why cannot the mining planes at least use Jandakot or Bullsbrook?

If we made this level and frequency of noise and disturbed those around us, we would have the police at our house in a flash. We have never ever had air traffic here before and cannot understand why we are being bombarded now. If you were here you would agree that the level of disturbance is – UNACCEPTABLE! We would welcome the opportunity to have portable noise monitor installed for a few weeks – and then play the recordings to the decision makers when they are trying to sleep!

We are also concerned about the loss of value of our property and wonder how we will be compensated – but we would rather not have the planes than have compensation – please make them stop!

I do have some video clips which I will try and attach with this letter.

On edge,

Monica Durcan and family