



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

Trim Ref: GI07/10421

24 August 2007

Mr Tony Briffa
Co-convenor
Hobsons Bay Community First Inc
PO Box 1089
ALTONA MEADOWS VIC 3028

Dear Mr Briffa

I refer to your e-mail of 31 July 2007 to the Office of Airspace Regulation in the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), about flight paths for light aircraft and joy flights over homes in the Williamstown, Altona, Altona Meadows and Seabrook suburbs.

The airspace over the suburbs mentioned is rated Class G which is uncontrolled and where most recreational flying takes place. Light aircraft can fly in this airspace without an approved flight path provided they adhere to Visual Flight Rules (VFR) and remain above 1000 feet over built up areas.


There are recommended VFR routes within Class G airspace using prominent ground features to assist visual navigation. While the VFR route passes over the suburbs mentioned in your e-mail, adherence to this route is not mandatory. Hence even if the VFR route was moved, this would not require aircraft to alter their routes in G class airspace.

As you pointed out in your email, the VFR route on the other side of the bay does indeed hug the coastline. However, this cannot be replicated on your side due to the Flying Training Danger Area to the south associated with Point Cook. The only way for aircraft to go south would be to cross inland between the Point Cook traffic to the south, and the Essendon traffic to the north, noting that there are a number of major aerodromes in that area including Avalon, Point Cook, Essendon, Melbourne and Moorabbin.

CASA has no jurisdiction over the noise in this area unless the particular aircraft are not complying with CASA regulations which stipulate that aircraft must be over 1000 feet in altitude over residential/built up areas, or 500 feet over non-residential areas unless taking off or landing.

You may wish to contact the Airservices Australia Noise Enquiry Unit on (toll free) 1800 802 584 for assistance with information on aircraft routes and frequency and the altitude of the aircraft overflying the area.

Yours sincerely


Julie Fox
General Manager
Corporate Relations