



Dingley Village Community Association Inc.

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January 28th 2010

The Officer in Charge,
Senate Standing Committee on Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport,
P.O. Box 6100,
CANBERRA ACT 2601.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dingley Village Community Association (DVCA) submission to

The Senate Inquiry into the effectiveness of Airservices Aust. Management of aircraft noise.

Introduction

The Dingley Village Community Association (DVCA) has, as one of its major objectives, **“the enhancement of the character and environment of the Village”**. In pursuing this objective it aims to reduce, or at least contain, the excessive aircraft noise over Dingley Village and the surrounding residential areas.

Dingley Village is situated on the east side of Moorabbin Airport and has over 10,000 residents. Other heavily populated suburbs on the perimeter of the airport are : Mordialloc and Parkdale on the south, Cheltenham, Mentone and Moorabbin on the west and Cheltenham, Clayton and Heatherton on the north.

DVCA has representation on the Moorabbin Airport Aviation Consultative Committee (MAACC).

The DVCA has made previous submissions to the Aviation Green Paper in 2008 and to the Draft Master Plan review for Moorabbin Airport in 2009. both submissions expressed our genuine concern about Moorabbin Airport activities, in particular noise and safety issues and their detrimental effects on the 100,000 or more people living on the perimeter of the airport.

We were very supportive of having an Aviation Industry Ombudsman and are pleased the Aviation White Paper now foreshadows the appointment this independent Officer. An independent Aviation Industry Ombudsman will be able to evaluate, investigate and report to the Government the very important issues that the community has in regard to aircraft noise, safety and our environment amenity.

Specific Responses to the Airservices Inquiry.

Item (a). “ Does ASA conduct an effective, open and informed public consultation strategy with communities affected by aircraft noise?” The short answer is **NO**. We believe that Moorabbin Airport should continue to operate as a functional airport, albeit with more effective community say regarding the local impact of its operations and an overall constraint and general reduction in noise. Communities need much more information sharing and involvement in decision making. Airservices has failed to deliver such a service.

The DVCA supports the Government in its endeavour to improve dialogue between affected communities and airport operators to better manage the adverse impact of aircraft noise. So far the dialogue and consultation effort, between the operators, Airservices and the communities, has been entirely ineffective in addressing resident's concerns regarding aircraft noise and safety. The operators, CASA and Airservices have largely ignored all resident's complaints.

Items (b), (c), (d) & (e) Again the answers are NO. Airservices Aust fails on each of these points in that its actions, if any, result in **no** decrease to the noise levels in our community. The 1800 phone number for public complaints is not manned 'out of hours' and no immediate action can be taken against any particularly noisy/low aircraft. Follow up action is often delayed or non-existent and so reduces any deterrent effect.

As far as we are aware there is no official monitoring of aircraft noise at Moorabbin Airport. Many older aircraft are particularly noisy but (unlike a very noisy car) have no restraints on their operations and no regulations to reduce their noise output. Helicopter flights, whose numbers are increasing rapidly, are also inherently more noisy than most fixed wing aircraft.

Item (f) The DVCA would welcome a "binding Community Consultation Charter" or indeed any other change to the existing situation which would allow our community to have some meaningful input into managing noise and safety issues which are a real source of frustration and annoyance to our community.

The DVCA supports the Government in maintaining a vibrant aviation industry with high quality aircraft and optimum safety standards however, due to long standing, unresolved noise and safety issues we do not support the current Airservices Aust structure or performance.

Mr. Giuseppe Biviano, President DVCA.

Dr. David Madill, Secretary DVCA