

Submission re Airservices Australia.

Julie Grace

I welcome the opportunity to express my (seriously fraught) feelings regarding the performance of Airservices Australia.

I regard Airservices Australia as deeply dishonest in their dealings with the public and I regard the governance of that body to be untrustworthy, arrogant and inadequate. Paul Bibby's article <http://www.smh.com.au/national/residents-furious-as-tenfold-increase-in-flights-flouts-rulebook-20090916-frq0.html> gives an example of the devious behaviour of the corporation.

Our family bought into Rosebery about six years ago. At that time there was little disturbance from airplane noise; there were bad days but they were so rare that we never bothered to make a complaint. Over the past two years the noise has grown to become a serious disturbance due to frequency and often low flying planes. Aircraft noise often wakes us before 6.30am.

I have made many complaints regarding the noise to Airservices Australia. They have resorted to the usual tactics of attempting to persuade me that I can not believe my own ears and that I merely have a 'perception' that there is a lot more noise in my suburb. It took several complaints before a male staff member admitted 'yes, there are a lot more flights' over Rosebery. When I queried why this was so he assured me it was increased demand for flights. Obviously, this is absurd: a sharp rise of this magnitude from one year to the next is simply unbelievable.

Our local action group held a meeting last year? to address traffic issues; many residents wanted to talk about the noise pollution of the airport rather than the road issues under discussion. My delusional perceptions appear to be shared by most of the suburb.

New noise patterns which will incorporate suburbs previously unaffected have been approved by the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP without exhibition and without any form of consultation with the community <http://www.smh.com.au/national/airport-changed-its-noise-zones-on-the-quiet-20091208-khqg.html>.

I can not believe that this behaviour is legal: exhibition periods should apply to everyone. Our suburb has a large and active action group and could easily have given a community response to Airservices Australia if we had had the opportunity.

Sydney Airport Community Forum is another abject failure. The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP, who holds a position with SACF, lives in Rosebery and yet did nothing to alert the community to what was happening. I have written to her some weeks ago demanding to know why she did not inform us and asking her to justify the existence of a community forum which neither informs, consults nor represents the community. To date, I have received no response. It appears that that neither body (AA nor SACF) believe they have a responsibility to the community.

It is time that members of the community, rather than political appointees, were introduced to this board. The performance of both bodies is woeful.