

27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

From September 2005 I had been living in a townhouse with inconsiderate, noisy neighbours and barking dogs, and was desperate for some peace and quiet.

I searched around and in February 2007 found a house for sale across the road from the Royal National Park. I sat in my car for over an hour across the road from the house late one evening listening to hear how noisy the place would be. The only sound I heard was cicadas and the water running in the creek. It was wonderful.

I therefore took out a huge bank loan and bought the place. The first 15 months living there were heaven. You could hear the rustling of the wind in the trees in the bush across the road and the birds.

Then all of a sudden in the winter of 2008 the roar of jet engines overhead started. It gradually grew more frequent until a few months ago during peak hours it was every three minutes. I was woken up at 5.50am by jets roaring overhead and didn't get to sleep until curfew at 11.00pm. The quality of life I had previously enjoyed had been destroyed.

At no point was there any consultation about flight paths being changed to fly past my house. I did not buy my house under a flight path or in the inner city which has the convenience of being close to town. I chose to live a good 45 minutes drive from the airport and live near the bush instead, specifically for the peace and quiet.

I am devastated that you have no control over your own environment; when you make a decision to purchase a house for a specific reason, then someone can just come along and destroy your peace and quiet is really unjust and wrong.

If you had a noisy neighbour you have recourse to the police and the council, but in this case it seems you have no rights at all.

When I bought the house there was no aircraft noise whatsoever, and this was the case for the first 15 months that I owned it. I want my peace and quiet back the way it was when I bought the house. If there had been planes flying overhead on a regular basis when I was looking to buy, I would definitely not have bought that house.