

29/01/2010

Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament house
CANBERA ACT 2600

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to express my concerns about the increased air traffic over our property.

We have resided here for almost 9 years. A very quiet and peaceful property, almost 5 Km North of Chidlow, with no other noise other than wildlife and occasional car. It is so quiet at night, that you can hear neighbours talking at over 400 metres away.

Now we have a major highway above our house, and to the North of our property.

The departures start in the morning around 6 AM and go generally until lunch time, then we have arrivals in the afternoon and evening which culminates in a flurry of flights between 11 PM and midnight. The flurry of flights, comprise at least 4 planes, which are generally 5 minutes apart. Some days the air traffic is continuous. Some days it is reasonably quiet, but a concern if air traffic increases.

We had no knowledge of changes in flight paths whatsoever, until they actually happened and destroyed our peaceful mornings, evenings, and lives. It was, and is, quite devastating. I suffered chronic anxiety attacks when it first changed. I can no longer sleep in our upstairs bedroom, as I get woken at frequent intervals. I also need to wear ear plugs to block out the noise, so I can sleep in a downstairs bedroom.

The communications from the pilots to the tower also affect our television reception. When watching analogue stations, it puts lines/fuzzyness across the screen. When watching digital stations, it results in a total interruption of the picture and sound, which goes for as long as they talk, every time they talk, until they are half way to Perth. Since analogue television is to be switched of soon, I can see that we will not be watching much TV.

We have put our property on the market, to move away to restore the lifestyle that we originally moved to this property for. The aeroplanes certainly put people off when they come to look at our property, so it is not selling as it should! Does this mean that Airservices Australia is liable for the loss in property value due to "their" changes to the flight paths?

Yours Sincerely,

Vanessa Smith.