

Thursday 25 February 2010

Inquiry into the effectiveness of Airservices Australia's management of aircraft noise

I thank the Senate and Senators for conducting this inquiry and for the opportunity to make a submission

Sincerely, Dave Moore

Submission

I am a resident of Chidlow in the Perth Hills and a director of Somerville Ecovillage™ Holdings Pty Ltd. Somerville Ecovillage (SEV) has been under development since 2002 and is a unique, award-winning, not-for-profit development that is in the final stages of establishing the pre-sales needed to secure infrastructure funding. I have lived in Chidlow for three years, having moved here for the tranquillity and natural beauty of the area and to be close to where I was creating the home for my family's future.

I became alarmed in late 2008 when it appeared that there was a dramatic increase in the frequency and noise of aeroplanes overflying Chidlow. The reason for this abrupt decline in the amenity of the town was a source of considerable gossip and speculation. We eventually became aware that there had been a decision taken by an aviation authority to change the flight paths of aircraft using Perth airport. Nobody in Chidlow knew that it was going to happen because no-one had been consulted or informed. I have consulted some of our own shire councillors and **they** were unaware of the proposed changes.

This has happened at a time when SEV is marketing 104 building lots. It is clear from questions asked by prospective buyers that aircraft noise is a factor affecting the results of our marketing.

It is my opinion that the process, claimed to have been used by Airservices Australia to consult and inform, was deeply flawed and that ASA failed to consult or inform the people who would be affected by its decisions.

I do not want to be made to keep up a stream of complaints to the ASA Noise Complaints Unit in order to obtain justice. However, I am concerned that, in the absence of such complaints, it will be judged that I and others in Chidlow are quite happy for the noise and vibration nuisance to continue.

There are issues of safety, amenity and fairness at stake here as well as the conduct of Airservices Australia. I urge the committee to use what powers they have at their disposal to give the residents of Chidlow and the Perth Hills a fair go.

Yours Sincerely

Dave Moore