In undertaking this inquiry, the committee shall consider whether Airservices Australia:

(a) has conducted an effective, open and informed public consultation strategy with communities affected by aircraft noise;

(b) engages with industry and business stakeholders in an open, informed and reasonable way;

(c) has adequate triggers for public consultation under legislation and whether procedures used by Airservices Australia are compliant with these requirements;

(d) is accountable, as a government-owned corporation, for the conduct of its noise management strategy;

(e) has pursued and established equitable noise-sharing arrangements in meeting its responsibilities to provide air traffic services and to protect the environment from the effects associated with aircraft for which it is responsible;

(f) requires a binding Community Consultation Charter to assist it in consulting fully and openly with communities affected by aircraft noise; and

(g) any other related matter.

My comments probably relate mostly to part e.

I am an acoustic consultant in Western Australia and in recent times worked on a residential development where part of the site was around ANEF 26-27. We developed noise management strategies to be incorporated into the building design so that acceptable internal noise levels were achieved.

The development was opposed and went to the State Admin Tribunal and the development ultimately refused. This I have no problem with in itself and the site was above ANEF 25 and AS2021 states that this is unacceptable for residential use.

However, the ANEF(350,000) is based on relatively old noise level data of aircraft and I believe if the new aircraft noise levels were incorporated into the ANEF as well as the new steeper decent paths, the ANEF for this case would have reduced and the development could have gone ahead.

The ANEF (350,000), which everything hinges on, is dated 2004. I understand they have an obligation to produce a new one every 5 years and now that we are in 2010, the 2009 ANEF is yet to be done (or at least available).

I believe the ANEF's should be updated as things change and make publicly available as in the case I was working on, it may have meant the development could go ahead but worse, there may be developments obtaining approvals that should not be.