

1 Sept 1998

The Hon Laurie Brereton, MP  
Parliament House,  
Canberra

Dear Mr Brereton,

I believe your electorate Kingsford Smith has been targeted to receive more than its fair share of aircraft noise in the Howard "sharing the noise policy". This has created an intolerable position for us since we wished to live in inner Sydney close to our work and had specifically chosen to buy our house more or less in the mid position between the N/S and E/W runways. We have lived here for 23 years (and voted for you every time since you took up your representation of this electorate) but now we feel we have no future here and will have to move.

Matters were again brought to a head recently when I phoned Air Services Australia yet again to make a complaint about aircraft noise worsening recently. Instead of taking my complaint in a courteous and efficient way the recipient of my call proceeded to tell me in a long winded and officious way technical details about why I had to accept the situation as it was, including the comment "we cant fly over water to the south of the airport even though the wind speed might be zero now because we must plan ahead and wind speed may change in a couple of hours. We have to use complex instrumentation and plans". Many of his arguments were facile and an assault to my intelligence. I was told they did not take "political" complaints and that I should ring elsewhere. Again I had to insist that I was making a complaint about noise and that he take my name. Since I had problems initially getting through I wondered if it is the policy of Air Services to lengthen each call in this way to reduce the number of complaints calls they receive. Whatever the reason (and hope it is not this) Air Services Australia Complaints section is behaving in an inappropriate fashion. I thought the Labor Party should be aware of this.

**For me policies which redress the wrongs of Howard's Sydney Airport plan will be a major issue in the next election (more important to me than the tax issues). To move will cost me much more than either party's tax reforms and in the longer term it will determine whether I remain in your electorate.**

When you were Minister for Transport in your plan to build the third runway a proposed environmental impact was that the Randwick/Coogee/ Kingsford areas of the Eastern suburbs would be free of aircraft noise. Now it has been turned against us and we are affected by several of the new flight paths from this runway as well as low flying helicopters and are certainly getting more than our fair share of very loud noise.

**Please would you advise me of what you and the Labor party will do should it resume power with respect to Airport policy in Sydney to eliminate this unreasonable aircraft noise from the Eastern suburbs as you originally promised. I wrote a letter to you previously on 12 Nov 1996 (when the Howard policies began to be implemented) about the problems of aircraft noise over my home but received no reply.**

Yours sincerely,

Anne E Allaway

**PS And the planes are thundering over again this morning.** They always fly over here in the early morning on a fine day, destroying the few moments of quality time I have before work.