

We understand that finally the Senate will hold an inquiry over the issue of excessive aircraft noise and traffic over the eastern hills area of Perth in Western Australia.

Our family moved to the hills over 20 years ago to seek a more peaceful tranquil environment and better air quality. With the new flight paths we now have to endure not only aircraft noise but also jet fuel emissions. We have experienced and are continuing to experience aircrafts flying directly overhead and when the windows are opened or when we are outdoors the smell of benzine triggers off asthma attacks. Not only do we get the noise in the daytime but often we are awoken by loud aircraft noise taking off after midnight, after 2 a.m and then quite regularly anytime from 5 a.m. onwards. In the daytime the noise often drowns out phone conversation from callers. Many a Qantas jets criss-cross directly overhead and it is alarming to see them looming so large above.

Air traffic in and out of Perth airport has grown considerably and will doubtless continue to grow. With the fly-in fly-out arrangements to the minesites we are also already experiencing increased aircraft noise from smaller aircrafts. Even as I write there is noise from aircrafts approximately every 5 to 10 minutes. There is a constant droning in the background. I appreciate some would suggest insulating the house or keeping the windows closed. I doubt there would be any necessity to debate the merit of being closeted and imprisoned in your own home just to accommodate aircraft noise.

When we first purchased our property we carried out extensive research to avoid areas where there was heavy air traffic. Many of those properties were often priced lower due to this factor. Now the complaints have come from those areas where property prices have risen so we "have to share" the impact of the noise (this was in one of the replies we received to our complaints).

Low population density was another reason cited for redirecting air traffic to the hills. Population is continuing to increase in the hills area and redirecting traffic in this way is just a short term solution.

Karen Ward