



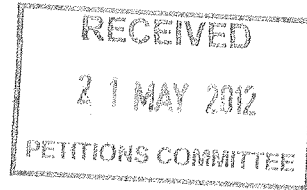
The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Leader of the House

600/989

Reference: 00942-2012

The Hon John Murphy MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

08 MAY 2012



Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2012 about a petition requesting restriction of aircraft aerobatics near Rockingham Beach (your reference 600/989).

The Australian Government takes the management of air traffic and its associated effects on communities very seriously. Every effort is made to develop procedures and practices to ensure the safety of communities and minimise the impact of aircraft noise.

I can advise that the area around Rockingham Beach / Cockburn Sound is not a designated aerobatics area. There are three designated Low Level aerobatic areas in the Jandakot training areas:

- Murray Field (Mandurah) 500 Ft to 3,000 Ft – used for competition practice
- Serpentine 500 Ft to 5,000 Ft – used for competition practice
- Casuarina Prison 2,000 Ft – 6,000 Ft – used for training.

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) is responsible for aviation safety regulation in Australia and can investigate any breaches of the safety regulations.

All aircraft are required to comply with the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988, which requires aircraft to maintain a minimum height of 1,000 feet above ground level over built up areas and 500 feet over all other areas. Part 155 (Acrobatic Flight) of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 governs the operations of aerobatic aircraft (referred to in the legislation as acrobatics). Part 155 (3) says that a person must not engage in acrobatic flight in an aircraft:

- (a) at a height lower than 3,000 feet above the highest point of the terrain, or any obstacle thereon,
- (b) over a city, town, populous area, regatta, race meeting or meeting for public games or sports.

While Part 155 of the Civil Aviation Regulations 1988 does not prevent the use of the Rockingham area, it does prevent aerobatics over built-up areas and or below 3,000 feet above ground level.

CASA has advised that radar tracks indicate that aircraft in the vicinity of the Rockingham Beach area operate at an altitude greater than 3,000 feet, generally operate over water and rarely directly over the populous areas of Rockingham.

Should aircraft be observed undertaking aerobatic manoeuvres above Rockingham Beach or below 3,000 feet, members of the public can report the incident to CASA on either 131 757 or via its website <www.casa.gov.au>.

CASA recently undertook a study of Perth airspace. The purpose of the study was to review the airspace within 50 nautical miles (nm) of Perth aerodrome. CASA advises that the study considered the operations of recreational and training operators, and proposed no changes in the Rockingham Beach area. A copy of the review can be found on the CASA website at:

http://www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD::pc=PC_90447.

I can also advise that Jandakot Airport has recently established an airport Community Aviation Consultation Group (CACG) – as required by the Federal Labor Government's 2009 National Aviation Policy White Paper.

The CACG was created for a number of reasons including providing an avenue for community members to have their views heard and their ideas explored about ways in which aircraft noise issues can be better managed. The group meets quarterly and I would encourage petitioners to contact it on phone number (08) 9417 0900, as it is the forum best equipped to directly address their concerns.

Further information can be found on the Airport's website:

<<http://www.jandakotairport.com.au>>.

I would like to thank the committee for passing this petition to me for consideration.

Yours sincerely

ANTHONY ALBANESE