

Economic Regulation of Airports

Submission re impact of Sydney Airport on suburbs under flight paths
by Alister Sharp, President Hunters Hill Trust

Representing residents of Hunters Hill, which lies beneath the flight path for two of the three runways of Sydney Airport, our concerns lie mainly with any proposed lifting of the cap on flights, reduction of the night-time curfew. Ironically, aircraft are flying over my head as I write this!

Like other suburbs beneath flightpaths, Hunters Hill residents resent being woken at 6am by the arrival of early flights, and look forward to the quiet following 11pm, when flights cease. However there is a general feeling of having been misled by the promised relief of the Long Term Operating Plan. As the official results show, the proportion of flights over this area of Sydney has never met the value of 17% promised in the LTOP, and is sometimes twice this value.

While we can understand Sydney Airport's desire to drop the cap and the curfew for commercial reasons, we believe residents have the right to have limits to aircraft (and other) noise, and given the failure of the LTOP, have little confidence in any assurances.

For these reasons we insist there be no reduction in the extent of the curfew, or increase in the number of flights. And we request that noise be shared in accordance with the existing LTOP.