



Steve Irons MP

your federal member for Swan



AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

By now you may be aware of the disappointing news that the Gillard Labor Government has said it will not be acting on the key Senate Inquiry recommendations to address aircraft noise in Perth. Although this will disappoint many people in the community, it is worth reflecting on how we got to this point and what we as a community can do next.

TIMELINE

November 2008

Perth Flight Paths are changed as part of the Western Australia Route Review Project (WARRP) with minimal community consultation. Changes made under the auspices of Minister for Transport Anthony Albanese and his Department Airservices Australia.

January 2009

Residents from across Swan start contacting Steve Irons' office to express their confusion and concern at the changes to noise levels.

February 2009

Steve Irons MP begins investigating the issue, distributing aircraft noise surveys to the community to assess extent and impact of the changes. Residents respond in high numbers from across the electorate, reporting significant changes affecting their quality of life.

July 2009

Airservices Australia (ASA) data requested by Steve Irons MP confirms what residents have been saying, showing a substantial year-on-year variation in aircraft traffic.



Perth Airport, 2008.

August 2009

ASA admit that its community consultation process was flawed at a special meeting of the Perth Airport Aircraft Noise Management Consultative Committee but ASA and Govt reject calls to re-open the WARRP.

September 2009

Steve Irons launches campaign for insulation compensation for Perth residents. Households in Sydney had an average of approximately \$60,000 per house spent on insulation including reverse cycle air-conditioning. "If it's good enough for Sydney and Adelaide, it should be good enough for Perth" Steve says, noting a plane taking off in Sydney makes the same noise as a plane taking off in Perth. Steve Irons calls for a review to the ANEF system of noise forecasting which has no direct relevance to noise effects across the Perth Metropolitan area.

October 2009

It emerges that no environmental impact assessment was done on the flight paths

changes by Environment Minister Peter Garrett, as is required under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Steve Irons writes to Peter Garrett and Anthony Albanese to seek clarification. Minister Garrett's Assistant Secretary writes back and says no impact study was done because significant impacts were thought unlikely.

November 2009

Irons and Liberal colleagues, unsatisfied by responses from the Government, secure a full-scale Senate Inquiry into the flight path changes. The Inquiry is opposed by the Labor Govt and its Senate Members.

Solution is needed to airport noise problem

GEOFFREY THOMAS



There is little doubt long-suffering residents near Perth Airport from their airline, use reduce power take-offs to reduce wear on

West Australian, 3 March 2011



Tony Abbott and Steve Irons at the Swan Community Forum.

AIRCRAFT NOISE UPDATE

December 2009

The Federal Government's Aviation White paper is released. Steve Irons expresses disappointment that the much anticipated report does not address the noise issue in Perth, despite a curfew review for Kevin Rudd's electorate in Brisbane and a planning taskforce for Sydney.

Minister rejects plan to cut down aircraft noise

GEOFFREY THOMAS

Residents living under Perth Airport flight paths will have to keep in 1980. The ANEF system was developed

West Australian, 3 March 2011

January 2010

Steve Irons makes a written submission to the Senate Inquiry on behalf of the community, including the results of his community survey. Irons writes to residents who have returned his aircraft noise survey and asks them to also consider contributing to the Senate Inquiry. Many do.

March 2010

Transport Minister Anthony Albanese bans Boeing 727s and claims he is addressing the noise issue. It later emerges these jets haven't landed or taken off from Perth Airport since early 2009.

April 2010

Local residents join Steve Irons at a **packed public hearing** for the Senate Inquiry in Ascot. The Inquiry takes evidence from noise experts, community representatives and Airservices Australia. Attendees are disappointed when an Airservices Australia executive says that noise is a perception issue.

June 2010

The Senate Inquiry report is published. It contains some excellent recommendations including that:

- Airservices Australia review noise levels over affected areas **with a view to offering a noise amelioration scheme consistent with that of other capital city airports.**
- The Minister for the Environment **review the flight path changes** under the EPBC Act (as should have been done at the outset).
- The controversial **ANEF measurement of aircraft noise be revised.**

Steve Irons says "It is now up to the Government of the day to implement these recommendations".

Respected Aviation Commentator for The West Australian, Geoffrey Thomas, backs Steve Irons' calls for an insulation scheme for Perth.

November 2010

The 3 month time period in which Governments should respond to Senate inquiries lapses.

January 2011

The Federal Government has still not responded to the Senate Inquiry. Irons prepares questions to be tabled when Parliament resumes as to why this hasn't been done.

February/March 2011

The Federal Government finally responds to the Senate Inquiry recommendations but rejects action for Perth residents on the grounds Perth is not noisy enough. This is a disappointment for the community.

Anthony Albanese receives widespread criticism for supporting insulation in his own electorate in Sydney but not elsewhere.

Amid outcry in the community, The West Australian throws its support behind a noise insulation scheme for Perth in an editorial. Aviation Journalist Geoffrey Thomas suggests a range of other practical measures that the Government should introduce, such as ensuring quieter take offs, which airlines are avoiding to conserve fuel.

Abbott hears concerns about aircraft noise and carbon tax

Member for Swan Steve Irons invited Federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott to meet with community groups, school children and residents at a forum on Monday, March 14.

"We heard from residents who are concerned about aircraft noise, the carbon tax and how any firm sicker detention centres in Western Australia."

Canning Examiner, 18 March 2011

March 2011

Steve Irons invites Tony Abbott to attend a community forum in Cloverdale. Questions are raised about aircraft noise and Tony Abbott condemns the Government for giving preferential treatment to Sydney over Perth.

Question

MR IRONS asked the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, in writing, on 21 February 2011: In respect of the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport's report *The effectiveness of Airservices Australia's management of aircraft noise* (2 July 2010), (a) why did the Government not respond within three months, and (b) when will the Government respond.

Answer

MR ALBANESE – The answer to the honourable member's question is as follows:

(a) and (b) The Government responded to the report on 22 February 2011.

Question On Notice, 21 February 2011

SO WHAT NEXT?



There's no doubt that the Federal Labor Government's rejection of the key recommendations of the Senate Inquiry is a major disappointment for the members of the community affected by aircraft noise.

I am considering all options including introducing Private Members' Bills and motions into the House of Representatives.

Residents often ask me what they can do to help. Please continue to lodge complaints with ASA and the Ombudsman. If you haven't completed my aircraft noise survey yet, please visit my website and do so.

I've been with you every step of the way on this and will continue to fight in the Parliament for action.

2 Mint Street, East Victoria Park, WA 6101 P.O Box 1060, East Victoria Park, WA 6981

Telephone: (08) 9355 0099 **Fax:** (08) 9355 0199 **Email:** steve.irons.mp@aph.gov.au www.steveirons.com.au

This material has been produced by Steve Irons MP using his printing and communications entitlement.

Authorised by Steve Irons MP, 2-4 Mint Street, East Victoria Park WA 6101.

Printed by Printezy.com, 128 Canning Hwy, South Perth, WA 6152.