



Aircraft noise concerns ignored

- Aircraft noise

BY KATE MURPHY

A bill that would have reopened a planning process for Perth's flight paths and protected public consultation in legislation was lost by one vote in federal parliament last Thursday.

Introduced by Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons and Member for Pearce Judi Moylan last year, it followed the rejection of recommendations from a senate inquiry into Perth aircraft noise.

Mr Irons said the vote was a bitter disappointment for the residents of Swan and a final indication that Labor and the Federal Government would not do any-

thing to address the aircraft noise situation in Perth. Ms Moylan said the Government had voted against consultation, ignoring the concerns of the public.

"This bill would have enshrined consultation processes and created an aircraft noise advisor to give impartial advice to residents," she said.

"We've seen the effects of no consul-

tation, hundreds of complaints and a damning senate inquiry, yet the Government thinks there is nothing wrong."

A spokesperson for Infrastructure and Transport Minister Anthony Albanese said the bill would have put safety and environmental improvements at major airports across the country at risk.

"It's incomprehensible that the Coalition is seeking to second guess the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Airservices Australia, two independent authorities this Parliament has tasked with responsibility for regulating and servicing the safety of our skies," he said.

He also said under Labor, community consultation had been overhauled to better manage the impact of aircraft noise by independently chaired community aviation consultation groups, appointing Australia's first aircraft noise ombudsman and passing legislation to ban the operation of noisy jet aircrafts at a number of Australia's major airports including Perth.