

Notice of Motion, Cr Oke: Aircraft in the City of Melbourne

5 August 2014

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee:

1. Notes that the City of Melbourne has no regulatory control over aircraft in flight within the City of Melbourne, but that City of Melbourne residents are in some suburbs adversely affected by aircraft noise;
2. Requests management to produce a short resource for residents, available online, stating:
 - 2.1 A description of aircraft regulations as they apply to the City of Melbourne;
 - 2.2 National, State and/or Local guidelines for aircraft operators regarding amenity and safety of residents; and
 - 2.3 Any current City of Melbourne policies regarding aircraft operations (e.g. hot air balloons);
3. Request management provide advice to Councillors regarding the process involved in the development of a Fly Neighbourly Advice.

Background

Councillors have received correspondence from East Melbourne residents regarding the increase in aircraft noise in inner Melbourne.

Residents believe that since regulations were removed, low flying fixed wing aircraft and helicopters hovering for extended periods are recording high decibel noise levels more frequently than in the past. The problem occurs throughout the week and at night but also occurs on weekends, with helicopters hovering over the sports precinct. Kensington and North Melbourne residents have also reported an increase in aircraft activity, especially in the evening and when events occur at Flemington.

Police and patient transport helicopters serve essential public purposes and are not the subject of complaint by residents; rather, traffic and TV helicopters which hover in the one place for excessive periods, some fixed wing light aircraft, and aircraft conducting joy flights and the intensity of air traffic in general are the more common causes for complaint.

The East Melbourne Group has been trying to find some relief to this situation, including speaking with Councillors and State MPs, and a meeting with airport representatives and regulators organised by MP Adam Bandt. Elected representatives at all levels have provided written support to residents (including a letter from the Lord Mayor Robert Doyle supporting their efforts), but residents are frustrated by a lack of action from Federal regulators.

It is important that the City of Melbourne clearly states our role and responsibilities with respect to residential safety and amenity and aircraft activity in our municipality. This short publically available report will assist residents with their future meetings with representatives from the aircraft operators. The gathering of this information will also assist Councillors to consider the production of Fly Neighbourly Advice as outlined in CASA guidelines for flying neighbourly http://www.casa.gov.au/scripts/nc.dll?WCMS:STANDARD::pc=PC_90456. This is done in the knowledge that flight regulations are a Federal matter, and any guidelines or policy changes for operators must be made at that level.

Moved: Cr Oke

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Original Notice of Motion submitted to Chief Executive's Office

Copy of Notice of Motion submitted to Council Business

Copy scanned and emailed to Councillors, Chief Executive Officer,
Directors, Manager Governance Services and Manager Legal Services

Item listed on relevant agenda/agenda planner

SMS Notification sent