

Concerns for impact of aircraft noise

By Peter Reynolds

THE Tuggeranong Community Council will seek a presentation from Canberra Airport on its expansion plans before it makes any decision on whether or not to join the Curfew for Canberra campaign.

Brian Brown, the vice-president for Curfew for Canberra, a group lobbying for an airport curfew between 11pm and 6am, gave a presentation at last week's Tuggeranong Community Council meeting.

He said residents in the valley could expect aircraft noise in the future.

Mr Brown said Canberra Airport had released plans to become a 24-hour freight and passenger hub, and under the new plans, some

flights would be taking off in the direction of Tuggeranong.

This is a new concern for local residents, who have not had any impact from aircraft noise in the past.

"In the master plan that the airport has put out for its future expansion, aircraft will be taking off in the direction of Tuggeranong," Mr Brown said.

"If we don't introduce a curfew, there will be a lot of people being woken up by jumbo jets arriving and departing at three and four in the morning.

"If Sydney residents get to sleep without aircraft noise, then so should Canberra residents."

Mr Brown said his organisation had received massive community

support, and this was translating into political support.

He said that he believed a curfew was inevitable once people started getting woken up during the night by aircraft noise, and that a curfew should be introduced sooner rather than later, so that businesses weren't encouraged to set up late night operations.

Speaking after the meeting, president of the Tuggeranong Community Council Darryl Johnston said there were some concerns for Tuggeranong residents regarding potential noise from aircrafts, but he wanted to give Canberra Airport a chance to discuss their plans with the council's members before any vote was taken on whether or not to join Curfew for Canberra.