

# Council may join Curfew for Canberra

By Peter Reynolds

THE Tuggeranong Community Council will consider joining the Curfew for Canberra group as concerns grow in the south over the noise that will be generated by a 24-hour airport.

Tuggeranong residents have not been concerned about noise from aircraft in the past, however, with an increase in flights due to the airport becoming a 24-hour freight and passenger hub, planes may be flying around the south.

Brian Brown, the vice-president of Curfew for Canberra, a group lobbying to have a curfew at Canberra Airport from 11pm to 6am, said his group would welcome the council into the organisation if it chose to join.

"We represent a number of community councils and residents' groups, but in the past, Tuggeranong Community Council has not felt the need to be a part of our organisation," he said.

"However, if Canberra Airport gets everything in its wish list, there is a good chance that aircraft noise may be a significant problem in the near future.

"With the 18 degree offset that is outlined in the master plan for the airport, the planes would head down the east side of Tuggeranong, then dog leg around and head back up the western side of Tuggeranong and on to Sydney.

"There will be planes doing this every few minutes, all through the night."

Mr Brown said he believed that it was inevitable that Canberra would get a curfew, and it was better that it would be a pre-emptive curfew rather than a reactive one.

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"ONCE the noise comes in, the community won't stand for it and a curfew will be inevitable," he said.

"We are trying to convince the ACT Government that it is in the interest of the greater community that we have a curfew in place sooner rather than later, so the business community and wider community can plan for the future."

President of the Tuggeranong Community Council, Darryl Johnston, said he was looking forward to meeting with the group.

"We are opposed to any re-routing of planes over Tuggeranong," he said.

"However, there is a real fear that this may happen.

"It is unacceptable to have a possibility of aircraft flying over Tuggeranong 24 hours a day, so we will be very interested in what the group (Curfew for Canberra) has to say."

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