

Fear of future noise sharing

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Council calls for legal advice

By Meredith Clisby

THE Tuggeranong Community Council has sought legal advice on behalf of valley residents in the wake of the approval of NSW residential development Tralee.

The council is furious over the decision by the NSW government to approve a rezoning of rural land under the current flight path south of Queanbeyan for the development of about 1000 homes.

Members fear complaints from future Tralee residents will lead to noise sharing of flights over Tuggeranong.

ACT members of the Legislative Assembly have also been critical of the decision and say it threatens the future of the Canberra Airport expansion.

The Tuggeranong Community Council passed a motion at its monthly meeting last Tuesday to consult with a solicitor about the possible legal options available to residents should noise sharing be implemented in the future.

Lawyers will investigate the issue and provide a report to the council at the beginning of next month.

Council executive member Darryl Johnston, who led the opposition against the development when he was president, said the council had an obligation to keep residents fully informed of what options might be available to them.

He said the council had been fighting against the development for years.

‘We’ve long been opposed to Tralee, we’ve written to the NSW government on numerous occasions,’ he said.

‘It’s no wonder that the council has taken such a hard line on this and no wonder Tuggeranong residents are angry.’ He said the council was not looking to take legal action itself ‘at this stage’.

During the meeting Federal Member for Canberra Gai Brodman said she was ‘violently’ opposed to Tralee and believed it would end up hurting Canberra’s economy.

ACT MLAs Brendan Smyth and Joy Burch both expressed their criticism of the project and Ms Burch described it as the ‘stupidest idea anywhere’.

A survey completed by the council in early 2010 found about 70 per cent of participants were against the development.

And Mr Johnston said this year’s top issues survey had listed Tralee as one of the major concerns of Tuggeranong residents.

‘Our position has always been that we opposed Tralee residential development because we fear that in the future the new residents of Tralee will express concern about aircraft noise,’ he said.

‘[And] as a result successfully campaign to have aircraft flight paths relocated over parts of Canberra that don’t already suffer from aircraft noise, that’s including the Tuggeranong Valley.’

A resident at the meeting said the council had been putting the argument forward for years and the NSW government had ignored it.

‘The noise is only going to get worse, the planes are going to get bigger and [there’ll be] more of them,’ he said.



Tuggeranong Community Council’s Darryl Johnston is angry at the NSW government’s approval of Tralee and along with the executive is seeking legal advice for Valley residents. Picture: Elesa Lee