

Hillside

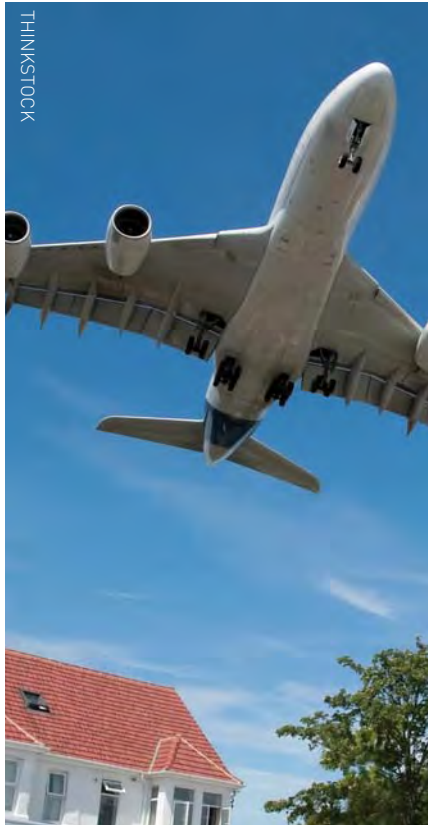
Flight fight

FLIGHT paths over suburban areas angering Perth residents are only the tip of the iceberg, according to the Member for Pearce (WA), Judi Moylan.

Mrs Moylan told the House of Representatives aircraft noise is an issue right around the country, but particular problems have been experienced in Perth.

“Since March 2009 my office has been handling frequent constituent complaints from affected residents who have raised questions about why changes were made to flight paths in the eastern suburbs of Perth without adequate community consultation,” she said.

Mrs Moylan introduced a private member’s bill that would force the regulator, Airservices Australia, to consult with affected residents when proposing changes to flight paths and discuss the 2008 changes in Perth with local communities.



NOISY NEIGHBOURS: Locals want say on flight paths



CARBON COUNTER: New technology to help measure gases

The greenhouse measure

WITH the debate over the carbon tax heating up the country, an Adelaide company is getting the measure of greenhouse gases.

Vipac, a high-technology engineering consultancy, is working on the Greenhouse Gas Monitor project, which seeks to develop a suite of instruments to remotely measure concentrations of CO₂ and other gases in the atmosphere.

The Member for Adelaide (SA), Kate Ellis told the House of Representatives technology with the ability to accurately measure levels of CO₂ and other gases in our atmosphere has never existed before.

“The development of this technology represents an incredible opportunity not only for the nation but also for our local community, as it holds numerous benefits,” she said.

“This initiative will establish Australia at the forefront of the global debate on climate change. It will do this by positioning Australia internationally as a major contributor to the understanding of greenhouse gas effects upon climate change; fostering the world’s best research, attracting international recognition and collaboration on all major climate-monitoring programs; and providing the tools to determine the establishment of carbon reduction strategies around the world through evidence based measurements of carbon.”

Focus on dementia rise

PUBLIC awareness needs to be raised about early onset dementia, the Member for McPherson (Qld), Karen Andrews has told the House of Representatives.

“When we think about dementia we typically think of an older person’s illness,” Mrs Andrews said. “Unfortunately, this is not always the case. The tragic reality is that dementia not only affects the elderly but also can and does affect young members of our community.”

She noted there are about 10,000 people with early onset dementia, and it is predicted this figure will rise to over 14,000 by 2020.

“It is most important that early onset dementia is diagnosed as soon as possible so that we can ensure that appropriate information, support and medication can be provided to treat this disease and also that family, friends and care givers are then in the best possible position to support the person with the diagnosis,” she said.

“Those diagnosed in their 40s and 50s have often not adequately planned for their retirement as they did not envisage their retirement taking place for perhaps another 10 to 20 years.”

Mrs Andrews said it is an illness that is often overlooked due to the misinformation out there about dementia.

“We must make progress to further educate the public on this health problem,” she said.



HEADS UP: Drawing attention to the rise of early onset dementia