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1 April 2010 Aircraft Crash near Moorabbin Airport

A spokesperson for the Moorabbin Airport Residents Association (MARA) issued the following statement after yet another aircraft crash near the Moorabbin Airport.

“It is only a matter of time before an innocent member of our community is killed by one of these aircraft crashes. We are relieved that the pilot survived and thankful that this time the crash was not into school grounds.

The Moorabbin Airport is one of the busiest airports in the Southern Hemisphere. It caters for literally thousands of flights, mostly by inexperienced pilots.

Last year the Civil Aviation Authority (CASA) commissioned an independent assessment of safety at airports like Moorabbin. In their June 2009 report the investigators concluded that the Moorabbin Airport posed “an intolerable societal risk”.¹ Immediately after the report there was a flurry of activity for a month or two, some seminars at the airport and a safety booklet was mailed to pilots. Then to our shocked amazement CASA approved an increase in the number of aircraft allowed into the Moorabbin circuit, making it even more dangerous.

The community is literally under siege. Our basic safety and amenity is being given away to thousands of overseas trainee pilots, scenic joy flights and hobby aviators. The Moorabbin Airport is quite different from a facility like the Melbourne Airport. Moorabbin is a discretionary facility not an indispensable transportation hub and it is well past time that the facility and its operators became a more responsible and considerate part of our community.

We again call on the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Mr. Anthony Albanese to restore a proper balance between the interests of aviation and the basic safety and amenity of a whole community, before the unthinkable happens and there is another fatality.”

1. http://www.casa.gov.au/wcmswr/assets/main/oar/papers/gaapfull_june09.pdf