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Council speaks out on airport relocation plan

BY COLLEEN RANKIN

THE Serpentine Jarrahdale Shire Council has joined the fight to stop the relocation of Jandakot Airport to the area.

Supporting several landowners in Keysbrook and Serpentine, the council has made it clear that they are against the proposal.

Shire president Denyse Needham raised council's opposition with Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Alannah MacTiernan and Minister for Peel Norm Marlborough when they visited the district recently.

Council was not informed of the proposal but sought a meeting with

representatives of Ascot Capital Limited and Jandakot Airport Holdings Pty Ltd to make their position clear, after reading media reports about the possibility of relocating the airport.

The representatives confirmed that they had an option on rural land in Keysbrook in the Shire of Murray.

They said the move was necessary because the maximum capacity for flight movements at their existing site would be reached within two years.

However, the Jandakot Airport Master Plan (2005) states that the airport was not expected to reach its capacity of 514,650 aircraft movements

within 20 years, and that its close proximity to Perth provides easy access for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, WA Police Air Support Unit and FESA's emergency rescue helicopter.

Canning MHR Don Randall said the proposal had many levels of state and federal planning approval ahead of it and landowners had the right to intervene at every level.

He said the Shire of Murray and City of Mandurah welcomed the airport. The relocation would allow the valuable Jandakot land to be opened up to residential development.

However, Ms MacTiernan is concerned that privatised airport man-

agement is being driven by property development and that the interests of aviation are coming a poor second. Jandakot Airport Holdings Pty Ltd managing director John Fraser believes the airport will be relocated and that there is some support in the Keysbrook area for the proposal.

"The airport will provide local employment, and an aviation university to be built at the site will bring further opportunities to the area," he said.

Local residents are invited to a meeting in the Keysbrook hall on Wednesday, August 30, at 7.30pm to form an action group against the airport proposal.