

# MEDIA RELEASE 26/02/2017

The Save Essendon Airport Group was founded in 2007 after annoyance with incorrect facts being put out by the group wanting to close the airport.

The Save Essendon Airport Group is made up by pilots, aircraft engineers, air traffic controllers, airline owners and even local residents.

During the highly vocal and visible protests by the group wanting to close the airport we decided enough was enough and the supporters needed a voice and within days of forming we had support coming from everywhere.

Within the first week we had over 200 signatures on a petition and that continued to grow every day, but what set us apart was we never protested we decided to get the facts out to the media and to also have small meetings where the supporters can come together.

Our very first meeting that was held in the main terminal building of Essendon Airport was highly successful with over 300 supporters attending including former deputy premier of Victoria Peter Ryan.

Speakers ranged from airline owners to the head of the Regional Airports Association of Australia.

We had in excess of 200 media interviews and even ran print media advertising to ensure the future of Essendon Airport. This was at the height when John Brumby and Anthony Albanese wanted Essendon Closed.

The announcement came not long after our group formed that the airport would remain therefore our group took a back step but still maintained together.

Sadly, after the recent accident of the King Air at Essendon the Close Essendon debate has now started again and it has forced our group to "re-activate", firstly our condolences go out to family of the pilot and passengers involved in this accident.

Now to some recent comments made by Helen Van Den Burg of the Close Essendon Airport Group that is totally in correct.

**Helen Van Den Burg On 3AW:** "The distance between Avalon and Essendon is 1 minute"

**Save Essendon Airport Group:** Totally incorrect, for an air ambulance king air it is around 13 minutes

AM327  
LANDED ABOUT 15 HOURS AGO

AVV  
AVALON, AUSTRALIA  
SATURDAY 25/02/2017  
22:12 AEDT

MEB  
ESSENDON NORTH, AUSTRALIA  
SATURDAY 25/02/2017  
22:25 AEDT

[AM327 flight schedule](#) · [All flights between AVV and MEB](#)

13m total flight time

**Neil Mitchell 3AW:** "So you think Avalon is an Option?"

**Helen Van Den Burg:** "I Do"

**Save Essendon Airport Group:** So you think Avalon is 1 minute flying time away from Essendon, well that is wrong for starters and what about the 45 minutes travel time from Avalon Airport to Melbourne's major hospitals? That is life and death for the air ambulance patient. Not to mention peak hour traffic.

These are just some of the incorrect facts being put out by the Close Essendon Airport Group. This is why the Save Essendon Airport Group was formed to ensure the facts get out there.

Essendon Airport should remain as it's an ideal piece of infrastructure and is centrally located not only for regional airlines but also Victoria's air ambulance, police airwing and fire fighting aircraft fleets.

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[www.saveessendonairport.com](http://www.saveessendonairport.com)