

12 August 2002

The Secretary  
House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on  
Economics, Finance & Public Administration  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

House of representatives Standing Committee on  
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Submission No: 247

Date Received: .....

Secretary: Bardell

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House of representatives Standing Committee on  
Economics, Finance and Public Administration

Dear Secretary

**Re: Inquiry Into Local Government and Cost Shifting**

Further to my request for an extension of time to make a submission to your committee I am enclosing a brief submission for your consideration.

Due to time constraints on my part I have not supplied great detail but would be happy to expand on these comments to the committee if required.

Yours faithfully

*Louise Mason*

LOUISE MASON  
President

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1. Transfer of infrastructure ownership to local government eg airport ownership

The impost placed on a small community such as Flinders Island in operating an airport to the required standard has a considerable affect on tourism. Despite the efficiency of the Flinders Council in operating the Flinders Island Aerodrome annual losses are incurred. In addition Council has suffered further losses from unrecovered debts from Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) services ceasing operations due to financial or operational difficulties. These losses have an effect on how and what Council is able to spend on tourism infrastructure and promoting the region.

2. The reduction in funding by state government to regional tourism associations

The reduction in funding from the Tasmanian State government to the three regional tourism associations has required local Councils and local tourism associations to take on some of the responsibility of the regional tourism associations. Gateway Tasmania (the regional tourism association for north east Tasmania, including Flinders Island) has had to reduce staffing levels and this in turn reduces the support and promotional activities which Flinders Island is able to be involved with.

3. A number of years ago AMSAR sold Deal Island in the Kent Group of islands to the Tasmanian Government for a nominal fee. Since that time the maintenance of buildings and vegetation control has been the responsibility of Parks & Wildlife. A significant amount of the work undertaken on Deal Island is carried out by volunteers. This unique area with enormous marine and tourism value suffers from lack of maintenance due to lack of funding.