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Secretary: *J. Lu House*

SUBMISSION NO. 58

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORT AND  
REGIONAL SERVICES

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FAX TO: STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT & REGIONAL SERVICES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

(2 PAGES)

✓ FAXED  
6.05PM

REF: INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL REGIONAL AVIATION SERVICES  
IN AUSTRALIA & TRANSPORT LINKS TO MAJOR POPULATED  
ISLANDS.

We wish to submit the following in support of the existing air service schedule between Launceston and Flinders Island in the State of Tasmania:

We are part-time residents of Flinders Island and travel from Brisbane to Flinders Island via Launceston approximately 4 times per annum. We also generate a lot of family/friends visitors to the Island for holidays.

The current service offered by Island Airlines Tasmania is generally adequate for our needs, with the exception of the points raised on Page 2 hereof.

- Island Airlines Tasmania offer good service times twice a day (early morning and late afternoon in/out of Flinders Island). The smaller aircraft is a good people mover for year-round service.
- Planes that are bigger would require 2 pilots and 1 hostess and any increase in cost would mean higher airfares and this would be unacceptable to us and a lot of private passengers.
- It is important for us to travel from Brisbane to Flinders Island (or vice versa) in one day with no overnight stopover in Launceston or Melbourne as this adds further to the cost.

An example of our flight schedule for October/November is as follows:-

Brisbane/Launceston with Virgin Blue via Melbourne departing Brisbane at 0845 arriving Launceston 1335 hours. Connecting Launceston to Flinders Island at 1600 hours arriving Flinders Island at 1635 hours.

Departing Flinders Island to Launceston at 0900 hours connecting with Virgin Blue flight Launceston/Melbourne/Brisbane at 1310 hours arriving Brisbane 1550 hours.

Total cost for both these flights is \$664.20 per person. This is the very lowest airfare cost that can be obtained. Qantas offer similar one day flights through to Launceston. Interconnectivity between Virgin/Qantas and regional air services is vital.

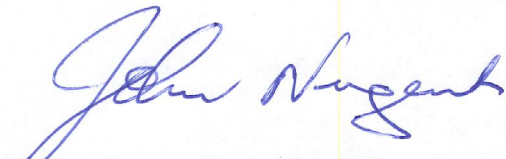
REQUEST FOR AIRCRAFT UPGRADE

We have been travelling on this type of aircraft (Piper Navajo Chieftan) since 1978 and would like to see a more MODERN aircraft around 12 passengers offering

- safety, frequency, low cost and comfort (lower cabin noise level) all of which are important pre-requisites for travel to and from Flinders Island.

The only other down-side to the current service is having to transfer to Island Airlines Tasmania terminal as taxis do not want to take you this short distance (\$5 taxi fare).

We trust this submission maybe helpful and if we can be of any further assistance please phone us on 07 3821 6010.

  
JOHN & PATRICIA NUGENT

