

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS SHIRE COUNCIL



P.O. BOX 11, COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS
INDIAN OCEAN, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6799

TELEPHONE:
Administration Centre: 091 62 6649
Fax: 091 62 6668

OFFICE HOURS:
7.00 am - 3.30 pm Monday to Friday

SUBMISSION NO. 98

ALL WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO BE ADDRESSED TO SHIRE CLERK

ENQUIRIES:

OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

30 Augut 2002

Mr Ian Dundas
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on transport and Regional Services

By Fax to: (02) 6277 4424

Dear Mr Dundas

In response to your call for submissions on your inquiry into aviation services to regional Australia, I wish to make the following points on behalf of the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands:

The current two flights a week service from Perth to Cocos is a great improvement on the old one flight a week service.

The capacity of the plane in use is still restrictive on the amount of freight that can be sent to the islands and does contribute to high costs particularly for perishable items.

The Shire is keen to see the link to Perth maintained as many residents on Cocos have family in WA and the ability to connect direct to Perth is seen as important.

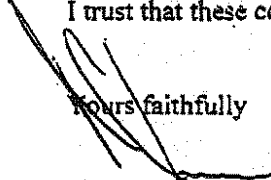
The cost of airfares from Perth to Cocos and return at around \$1600 return is still a very high cost and is a disincentive to tourism and business travel.

Notwithstanding the above, the Shire recognises the effort of the Commonwealth in arranging for the extra flight and its hard work in trying to find a lower cost air service. The subsidy paid by the Commonwealth in maintaining flights to Cocos is also recognised and appreciated.

These comments have been made by councillors in other forums and can therefore be construed as representative of the elected councillors' views.

I trust that these comments are relevant to your enquiry.

Yours faithfully


Bob Jarvis
Chief Executive Officer

Secretary: *J. Lubben*

RECEIVED

2 SEP 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES

0891626668