



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 16 June 2003

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Inquiry into regional aviation in Australia

Regional Aviation Association of Australia and Canberra Airport to give evidence at inquiry into regional aviation

Canberra, Wednesday 18 June 2003

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee is examining the adequacy of regional aviation services and transport links to Australia's major populated islands.

The committee will hold the 12th public hearing of its inquiry in **Canberra** this week, to gather evidence from the Regional Aviation Association of Australia and Canberra Airport.

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia represents 51 members including regional airlines, charter operators and service providers. The RAAA focuses on the long term viability of the industry.

Bob Mason, Chief Executive Officer of the RAAA, said in his submission (submission number 93 on the inquiry website, see link below), "It is recognised that the regional aviation industry in Australia today is a strong reflection of the Government's competition policies.

"Over the past 20 years, more than 73 domestic airlines have gone into demise through liquidation, bankruptcy, receivership, merger or ...takeover.

"Government taxes and levies ... now account for between 25 – 45% of many average airfares."

Stephen Byron, Managing Director of Canberra International Airport, in his submission (submission number 134 on the inquiry website) said, "we believe that regional aviation in its current state is under threat and that a revision of current industry regulation or lack thereof is crucial to the survival of hundreds of smaller routes Australia-wide".

House Transport Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville MP, says the evidence gathering phase of the inquiry is drawing to a close.

"The next steps are to consider the evidence from more than 170 submissions and many witnesses, and to draft the report. I am proposing to table the report by the end of this year," Mr Neville said.

Media and the public are most welcome to attend the public hearing, details of which appear below.

PUBLIC HEARING: Wednesday, 18 June 2003, 9.05am - 10.45am

WHERE: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

SCHEDULED WITNESSES:

Regional Aviation Association of Australia, and Canberra International Airport

For **media comment**, please contact:

Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4940

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or visit the Inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/aviation/index.htm