

Dalby Wambo Aerodrome Board

SUBMISSION NO. 9

ABN 13 232 939 235

c/- Wambo Shire Council Chambers
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IPS:KJH
Response: 57192

26th July, 2002

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Mr I. Dundas
Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Secretary

RECEIVED

- 8 AUG 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES

Dear Sir,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL REGIONAL
AVIATION SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA**

The Dalby Wambo Aerodrome Board is a joint local government formed from the component local governments of Dalby Town Council and Wambo Shire Council. The Board exists to promote and provide a safe, reliable and fully maintained facility, so as to meet the professional and recreational aviation needs of the community.

The main runway (03-31) was reconstructed in 1992 as part of the hand over from federal ownership to local government ownership. Unfortunately, Dalby and its Aerodrome are constructed on highly expansive clay soil, and this causes a need to rework the runway surface every five to seven years, to maintain an acceptable running surface.

It is beyond the capacity of the community to fund this work, and the Board is extremely pleased that it has recently been granted \$100,000 subsidy for each of the years 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, to undertake the bulk of repairs needed, under the Rural and Remote Airport Development Program. Each Council is prepared to fund its' 50% contribution and this work is scheduled to be completed by 31st August, 2003.

The Dalby Wambo region is experiencing sustained growth in the number of visitors to the region, especially due to the cotton industry. Tourism is also gradually increasing. During the next few years, the region expects to see a number of proposal come to fruition, including:-

1. A large scale Ethanol plant to be located close to Dalby.
2. Continued expansion of the tourism market led by premium destinations such as Jimbour House Winery.
3. Establishment of an export pig abattoir, employing in excess of 300 people.
4. Expansion of several rural/commercial industry manufacturers and supply companies in the immediate area.

Some estimates of the expected population increase range as high as 15-20% over our current 15,000 population.

The Board believes that the refurbishment of the runway, increasing industries and population, regional location including its proximity to the developing coal fields between here and Chinchilla etc all point to the role that this Aerodrome has for future commercial regional aviation services. The Board also believes that the introduction of commercial aviation services to rural and remote areas such as ours is long overdue and would urge the committee to consider including our facility in any future plans for the introduction of commercial services to rural areas.

I look forward to your response in due course.

Yours faithfully



IAN STEVENSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER