

Secretary: *J. L. L. L.*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES

Mr Paul Neville MP
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Transport & Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Neville,

I am writing in regard to the rural air services on Flinders Island in Tasmania.

The Island is serviced by a company named Island Airlines and they only have 8 seater planes which travel between Flinders Is & mainland Tasmania to Launceston 3 times a day on Monday, Wednesday & Friday & twice on Tuesday's & Thursday's & have 1 flight on the weekends.

Now these planes are no where near big enough, everytime you try to book on you can not go when you want to or need to, for example I recently had to fly out to see a specialist and my appointment was on Thursday at 1:30 pm, instead of being able to get on Thursday morning & back Thursday night, I had to go on Tuesday morning at 9:00 am & return on Friday morning at

8:00 am, now this trip cost me for a start \$201.50 for my return airfare (which is for (to high) and accommodation in Launceston for 3 nights plus meals was \$300, totaling just over \$500.00.

The planes are far too small & very uncomfortable especially if you are a tall person, not to mention if you are a pregnant woman, there simply isn't any aisle or leg room, the planes are also not pressurised which for many people is a very uncomfortable flight each time.

For those people who are/have a fear of flying all of the above just makes it worse and you feel every little bump and bang your head on the roof or window in some occasions.

There aren't enough seats available most of the time for residents let alone visitors & tourists who wish to come to the island.

The whole airline setup is totally unacceptable & simply isn't good enough we need bigger, pressurised planes asap.

Imagine trying to book a group of school children on to go on school excursion trips I know for a fact that for an example

There were grade 2 students going on an excursion to Launceston & the group had to be split up and with one teacher going the kids had to be put on 2 flights, with the second flight being all kids no supervisor on the flight. There was a second teacher going with them but she couldn't get on until a flight later in the day. Simply not good enough.

Please can you do anything on getting bigger pressurised planes to service our beautiful island. The current service is just not good enough, we are not a third world country just an isolated community & we shouldn't have to put up with this poor service

Sincerely

J Willis
Flinders Island.