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A North Queensland Airports Enterprise



30 May 2012

The House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Economics
Canberra ACT

Dear Committee Members

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE PASSENGER MOVEMENT CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 2012

I provide this letter as Cairns Airport's submission to the above mentioned parliamentary enquiry on the proposed amendment to the *Passenger Movement Charge Act 1987*.

Cairns Airport Pty Ltd is strongly opposed to the proposed amendment. As the region's leading industry, tourism is vital to the health of our overall economy.

We believe the resulting increase in the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC) will add further challenges to our region's already stressed tourism industry and will compromise the industry's ability to provide jobs and contribute revenue to the economy.

Cairns and Tropical North Queensland attract over 500,000 international visitors each year. Cairns Airport is working hard to increase direct air access from the key market of China and the aviation hub of Singapore, to boost international visitor growth. This is already being undertaken in the face of challenges such as the high Australian dollar, increased competition from other destinations and the fallout from natural disasters in Japan, another key international market for our destination. Imposing more challenges at this time will be detrimental to an industry and a region that has made a robust contribution to Australia's prosperity in the past when it should instead be offered support so that it may continue to do so in the future.

I strongly urge you to oppose the amendment to the *Passenger Movement Charge Act 1987*.

Yours faithfully

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