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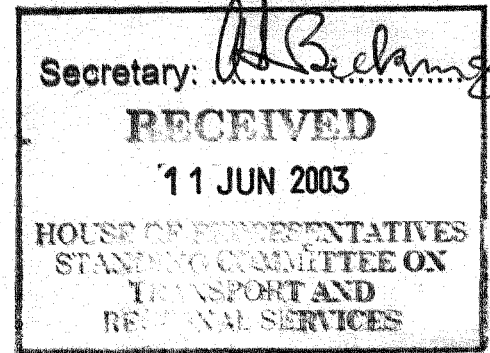
Contact Officer:

Telephone No.:

h:\bdm\letters\Regional Aviation Services

Laurie Mundt

3810 6627



10 June 2003

Dear Sir

Re: **Inquiry into Regional Aviation Services in Australia and Transport Links to Major Populated Islands – EXHIBIT to Public Inquiry 11 June 2003**

Thank you for this opportunity for our Council to provide further comment regarding the adequacy of commercial air services in regional and rural Australia.

Since the Market Demand Study in December 1999 and our submission to the inquiry in August 2002 there has been an even stronger demand for **Regional Aviation Services** in Ipswich and a very strong demand for an **Aerospace Industrial Precinct** has also developed.

Regional Aviation Services

The establishment of a regional airport in Ipswich will meet the demand identified in the study and address some of the congestion issues associated with the other airfields in South East Queensland.

To enable the development of a regional airport, Ipswich City Council is seeking assistance in the following areas: -

1. Negotiations with the Department of Defence regarding :
 - a) leasing of suitable land at RAAF Airbase Amberley
 - b) operating agreements for aircraft and support facilities such as Control Tower and Fire Services
2. Provision of infrastructure to support an airline terminal
3. Identification of a potential airline operator

A Regional Airport at Amberley would be ideally located to capitalise on local fruit and vegetable freight opportunities out of the Lockyer Valley directly to overseas markets providing enormous benefits to the industry in Queensland.

Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on
Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Aerospace Industrial Precinct

Recent commercialiation and expansion of operations at RAAF Airbase Amberley have generated a demand for an industrial precinct dedicated to aerospace industries. This precinct would enable industries with synergies to cluster to compete effectively with world markets and provide enormous economic benefits to Ipswich and Queensland.

Ipswich City Council has been working with the Department of State Development to identify a suitable site for this development and the Department is currently commissioning two studies to determine the market demand and the suitability of the site.

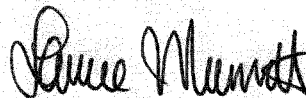
Ipswich City Council has adopted an "Amberley Air Base & Aviation Precinct Policy Guideline No. 7" (copy attached) to clarify Council's support for the development of an Amberley Air Base and Aviation Precinct.

Ipswich City Council is seeking assistance with negotiations with the Department of Defence in relation to the suitability of various sites for the precinct and operating conditions between military and civilian personnel.

Thank you again for the opportunity to make this further submission. We look forward to working in partnership with you to progress these two very important issues for Ipswich City and Queensland.

Attached :
Policy Guideline No.7

Yours sincerely



Laurie Mundt
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

IPSWICH PLANNING SCHEME
POLICY GUIDELINES

for
Amberley Air Base & Aviation Precinct

POLICY GUIDELINE NO. 7

1. Date of Council Resolution

These guidelines were adopted by Council on 26 July 2000 in accordance with Clause 81 of the Planning Scheme.

2. Purpose of the Guideline

This document is intended to assist with the implementation of the Planning Scheme by providing guidance in relation to the potential development of the Amberley Air Base and surrounding lands.

This Policy Guideline is intended to clarify Council's support for the development of an Amberley Air Base and Aviation Precinct, and to provide guidance for future development and planning initiatives in the area.

3. Guidelines

3.1 General

Council has previously recognised and identified the major land use impacts and economic opportunities to the City of Ipswich through its association with the Amberley Air Base. In recognition of these impacts and opportunities, Council is supportive of the continued operation of the Air Base, and its expansion to include other relevant defence activities and associated military and commercial aviation activities.

3.2 Economic Opportunities

The opportunities offered by the development and expansion of the Air Base and associated aviation activities include the following:

- the establishment of a provincial city commuter airport, which may include the location of a regional airline headquarters, and an associated on-flow of tourism potential. The establishment of civilian air traffic operations will be subject to necessary limitations on the type of aircraft, frequency of flights and hours of operation, in order to preserve the amenity of nearby residents;
- major opportunities for joint civil and military business activities, particularly relating to aeronautical engineering activities. This may particularly include the potential for:
 - the employment of civil contractors for the servicing and repair of military and civil aircraft, with the possibility of creating a highly qualified 'niche' industry, drawing contracts from interstate and overseas; and
 - the potential for the establishment and growth of a 'High Tech Aeronautical Research and Development' industry, strengthening the service and repair markets, and opening new opportunities in aeronautical design and innovation.

These activities potentially have major economic multiplier effects for the City. They also take advantage of the skills base in the local community created by retired Air Base personnel and allow the growth of new high tech skills in the Ipswich workforce.

3.3 Development Locations

There are a number of sites with the Amberley Air Base land holdings, or on the periphery of the base holdings, which offer opportunities for the co-location of compatible businesses. These sites include:

- the area adjoining the eastern gate to the Air Base (Old Toowoomba Road);
- the area to the south-west of the Base along Southern Amberley Road;
- the area immediately to the north-west of the current base operations, along Rosewood Road; and
- the possibility to redevelop the Amberley Township area.

Further investigations may prove that more than one of these sites are viable and appropriate for use, and may identify further suitable sites for development.

4. Further Issues

The ongoing development of the Amberley Air Base and Aviation Precinct will require further consideration of a wide range of issues. Whilst this Policy Guideline establishes Council's support for the precinct and its future development, further detailed planning is required to address these issues, which include:

- flood immunity levels;
- major road access;
- connection to urban services (i.e. water supply, sewerage, power and stormwater drainage);
- information technology and telecommunications access;
- design and safety issues with particular regard to explosives stored and used at the Air Base;
- consideration for further land purchases to maintain effective buffer areas;
- design standards and guidelines for buildings and site layouts; and
- aircraft movements and associated impacts on the amenity of nearby residences as well as development within the precinct, including community consultation concerning key amenity issues.