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From: James Auld [mailto:jamesauld@bigpond.com]

Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2003 9:24 PM

To: Carter, John Gordon (REPS)

Cc: bmunro-783g2M954@airsafety.com.au

Subject: Aviation Security

Dear Mr Carter,

Boyd Munro has drawn my attention to the public hearings currently being held to review aviation security in Australia.

Please keep in mind the cost of providing any measures being considered - it is the fare-paying passenger who foots the bill in the long run. We all want safety and security in the air, but what can be provided has to be balanced against the cost of provision, and the ability of the user to pay. Too high, and we will have secure airlines, but few passengers to use them!

I know this is simplistic, but there is a perception that only those with the loudest voices get to be heard at such high-powered meetings.

I am a "consumer" of aviation services, as a fare-paying passenger, and a user of the aviation infrastructure as a private pilot. I have held a licence for 35 years, and it is one of the essentials for professional people in country Australia. I live in Inverell NSW, and we had an air service up until recently. It was only once a day for many years, but now it doesn't exist at all. The only feasible way for me to maintain my professional currency is to fly to Sydney or Brisbane for meetings, as local train services are non-existent, and the bus transport is in excess of 12 hours to either city.

Anything which eventuates in the name of "security" which jeopardises the rights and feasibility of country people to use their own air transport will be severely detrimental to the vast country areas of Australia. Provide another barrier to professionals, particularly health professionals, working in country Australia, and you will see a further reduction in the already depleted numbers there. Remove the health services, and country towns decline even more than they have. I know, I have watched this happen over the last 34 years here.

Please review our aviation security, but make any changes affordable for those who have to pay.

Dr James M Auld
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