

Secretary: *J. Lees*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600**c/- Post Office
Whitemark
Flinders Island 7255

Emailed 30/9/02

Sir,

I am the owner/manager of a Car Hire and Automotive Repair business at Whitemark.

In order that the business remains viable, it is essential that there is a fast, efficient freight delivery. Parts have to be ordered from either the Tasmanian mainland or Victoria. Most of my business in the motor repairs is for farmers and therefore usually urgently required. The car hire segment caters for tourists and therefore is equally urgent.

Over recent years, several airlines have become insolvent, causing me the loss of considerable sums of money.

We are part of Tasmania and in my opinion should be able to expect service along the lines that other parts of the state enjoy. This would enable us to have a profitable business thus allowing the island economy to flourish. Our present service is so unreliable that two businessmen who called on me recently had to charter an aircraft to get to the island so that they could meet their commitments. I consider this situation to be unacceptable.

At present, there is no depot for freight in Launceston and an added expense is incurred by having to get parts to the airport by taxi. In the case of wrong parts being sent it creates an undue impost that we can ill afford.

The shipping service, at present, seems to be adequate and I understand that livestock are being lifted as required. I think it would be an advantage if there were reasonable passenger accommodation on the vessel. Clients like to travel with their vehicle.

As far as the air service is concerned, I would like to see a daily reliable service, using reasonably modern, fast aircraft. This would encourage tourists to use the service. They are necessary for the economy of the island.

**Jason Lees**