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Mr. Glenn Worthington
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT
2600

Submission No:78.....

Dear Mr. Worthington,

Firstly I would like to apologize for Councilor Bill Barns and Myself for not attending the Aviation Security inquiry in Derby on the 9th of March 2006, as Airport Manager for the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley.

Our main issue at Kununurra Airport is funding, to meet security requirements we have requested DOTARS for the following items, fencing, surveillance camera's, flood lights, access control systems for gates and doors.

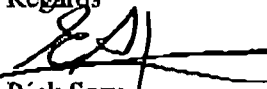
The reason we have requested funding for Kununurra Airport is due to two security incidents over the past year, included a bomb threat on a Skywest flight, Fokker 100, XR61 on the 06th June 2005, Kununurra to Perth. We also had an incident on the 12th January 2006 where one of the Airnorth aircrafts, Brasilla EMB120 rego VH-ANK, was on an overnight stay and the first officer found foreign objects (rocks) in both of the exhaust engines.

We have regular Jet services into Kununurra on Mondays and Fridays being a Skywest Fokker 100 and on Saturdays we have a Qantas BA146, Qantas will include an extra flight on Sundays starting in April 2006.

The Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley has provided infrastructure for new fencing at Kununurra Airport about 125 meters each side of the terminal which was paid for by the Shire, plus new construction work in the terminal for the Secure and Sterile area. The x-ray machine, wands, archway, bomb explosives detector and staff, were paid by Qantas.

Another concern is the Victoria Highway, because it is so close to the Airport I feel that a higher fence is required on the South side of the terminal, I have advised DOTARS and have shown staff from the Department of Transport and Regional Services from Perth regarding this matter while they were in Kununurra. We have been advised that there is no funding available for airports with a Transport Security Programme. Currently the fence is only 2 meters high in certain areas which makes access to the main Apron area very accessible to anyone at any time day or night. Please note that each Monday and Wednesday night Regular Public Transport (Air North) from Darwin park over night on main apron area.

Within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley we have 57 communities and a population of 7,775. The Airport has 38 light Aircrafts which are based here plus 28 Helicopters. In 2005 we recorded 24,000 aircraft movements in and out, passengers embarking and disembarking through the terminal building were 47,582 for the year 2005, we are a major tourist destination within Western Australia and tourist numbers are increasing rapidly. I would like to stress my concerns that we are in much need of funding to upgrade security in and around the airport.

Regards

Rick Spry
Airports Manager
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
3/3/2006



Shire of
Wyndham-East
Kimberley

All communications
to be addressed to the
Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 614
Kununurra WA 6743
Ph (08) 9168 4100
Fax (08) 9168 1798
Email:
mail@thelastfrontier.com.au

Kununurra Office:
115 Coolbah Drive
Kununurra

Wyndham Office:
Koolama Street
Wyndham

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