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SUBMISSION31.....

7 May 2004

Mr Quinton Clements
 Inquiry Secretary
 Joint Standing Parliamentary Committee on Capital and External Territories
 The Commonwealth Parliament
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Clements

**INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF FUNDING FOR AUSTRALIA'S
 ANTARCTIC PROGRAM**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a presentation to the Joint Standing Committee Inquiry during its recent visit to Albany.

Further to the joint submission by the Great Southern Development Commission and the City of Albany, we would like the Committee to consider an additional point that we believe will impact upon the financial operations of any future air service to the Antarctic continent.

As we outlined in our submission the larger personnel bases of Davis and Mawson are geographically closer to Albany and in addition to this there are several other western bases that have international scientific interests.

With this in mind, the City requests that the Inquiry give consideration to a strategic analysis of the location of a major airstrip in Western Antarctica, closer to Davis and Mawson. It is our understanding that earlier studies conducted by the Australian Antarctic Division assessed that an airstrip at Davis would be a safer option than Casey as a flat rock surface site was available near to the existing scientific bases.

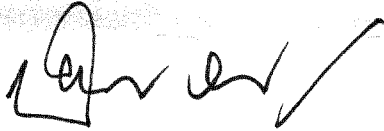
The provision of an air service from the Australian mainland to Antarctica will likely facilitate further international interest in establishing strategic alliances with Australia. Using Albany as a western hub for these interests will not only provide convenient access from European and Asian countries who have scientific programs on Antarctica, it will also provide revenue opportunities for lease of Australian air services and use of Australian land based facilities on the Continent.

We believe more objective research and analysis is required on the costs associated with an alternative airstrip and the associated cost and revenue opportunities that may be forthcoming using Albany as a departure point for international alliances.

Please express our sincere thanks to the Committee for its interest in assessing Albany and particularly to those Senators who were able to personally visit Albany and view the City's infrastructure and services. We look forward to hearing the outcomes of the Committee Inquiry in due course.

Should you have any further queries, please contact myself on 9841 9302 or Mr Jon Berry, Manager Economic Development 9841 9339.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hammond
Chief Executive Officer