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The Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts
And Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

REVIEW OF AVIATION SECURITY IN AUSTRALIA

I refer to your invitation for submissions to your Committee in respect of the Review of Aviation Security in Australia and in response this short submission is made on behalf of Hervey Bay City Council as owners of the Hervey Bay Airport.

Hervey Bay is currently serviced by 3 flights daily to and from Brisbane using 36 seat turboprop aircraft. As the Committee will appreciate, this type of aircraft does not require any form of electronic security to be installed at the Airport.

Hervey Bay has a modern terminal building which was constructed 7 years ago. It has the capacity to serve the City's requirements for many years while ever aircraft of a similar size or up to 70 seat capacity are operated into Hervey Bay.

However, any requirement by the Commonwealth Government for electronic security and screening equipment to be installed at airports such as Hervey Bay would result in considerable expenditure being required, not only on the purchase of the required equipment but in modifications to the airport terminal and more secure enclosure of the terminal precinct from the apron area. While an estimate of the likely cost has not been obtained it could undoubtedly run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, possible up to \$500,000 depending upon the level of additional security and screening required.

If the Commonwealth should determine that screening and additional security measures are necessary to be introduced at regional airports such as Hervey Bay it needs to be mindful of the cost and the financial capacity of the regional airport owners to meet the expenditure involved. In many cases it would not be feasible to recover the costs from airport users.

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It is considered before any additional measures are introduced there should be full consultation with all levels of government, the airline industry and airport owners. Serious consideration also needs to be given to the funding of any enhancements and the level of support the Government would be prepared to offer.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on behalf of the Hervey Bay City Council.

Yours faithfully

RON FENNELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOVERNANCE
& COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES