

Secretary: J. Lutton

RECEIVED

19 AUG 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES

PO Box 49 Whitemark
Flinders Island
Tasmania 7255

16th August 2002

SUBMISSION NO. 29

Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee
on Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

RE. Flinders Island, Bass Strait Air Services

I wish to offer the following comments regarding Air Services to Flinders Island.

The service today using a 9 seater Piper Chieftain aircraft, I find too expensive to fly anywhere from what is an already expensive Island to live on.

Many on lower incomes therefore, only travel off the Island when absolutely necessary.

A large percentage of people I find will not travel on 'Light Aircraft', this together with the cost, retards any substantial growth on the Island, including Tourism, which could be a money spinner in the long term.

To draw level with the rest of Tasmania a larger Turbo Prop Aircraft with a seating capacity of 30-40 passengers is required, or I am convinced this Island will

2. remain static as it has for the past 35 years, since the introduction of light aircraft. — a 'Cinderella' section of Tasmania.

I first came to Flinders Island in 1959 in a 30 seat DC3 aircraft operated by Ansett-ANA, this was luxury, compared to the small cramped expensive of today, after 43 years of "progress"?

Today, during peak Tourism periods, due to full flights, often passengers surplus luggage has to remain, and come on a following flight, often a day later.

This is a headache for passengers, what if people have connecting flights on the same day, Overseas, or Interstate, from Tullamarine Airport!

Norfolk Island a tiny 3x5 mile dot in the Pacific Ocean 1000 miles from anywhere, has large planes flying in every day.

This small Island would fit into Marshall Bay, here on Flinders Island, and having visited Norfolk Island, give me Flinders Island any day.

Flinders Island with two large 'Markets' within 600 miles, (Melbourne and Sydney) cannot even score a 30 seater aircraft.

My suggestion to promote this Beautiful Island and increase passenger numbers, both Locals, and Tourists, is after a broad advertising campaign, introduce a 30-40 seat Turbo Prop

3.
Aircraft over the Summer months to Flinders
Island once a week (Dec. to April), the
Route being Melbourne, Flinders Island, Launceston
and Return.

If nothing is done to bring 'Flinders' up
to a par with the millions being spent on
travel to 'Mainland Tasmania', I am sure the
potential of this Island will remain unfulfilled,
which is rather tragic should this happen.

Yours Sincerely.

— Humphries

(GEOFF Humphries)