



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 5 June 2003

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Inquiry into regional aviation in Australia

Qld & northern NSW witnesses at public hearings in Brisbane Wednesday 11 June & Thursday 12 June 2003

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee is examining the adequacy of regional aviation services and transport links to Australia's major populated islands.

The committee will hold the 10th and 11th public hearings of its inquiry in **Brisbane** next week, to gather evidence from Queensland and northern NSW regional councils, small airline operators, airport owners and government.

Appearing will be representatives from **Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Mackay, Tamworth, Toowoomba** and the **Fraser Coast** (Maryborough).

Also appearing will be CEO of Aviation Australia, Mr Paul Brederick. Aviation Australia is a new training organisation established by the Queensland Government to support the development and growth of the aviation and aerospace industries in Queensland and in the Asia Pacific region. Aviation Australia has been set up with the support of Australia's major airlines and aerospace companies as well as Queensland's leading universities. Mr Brederick was also the owner of the former airline, Tamair.

In his submission (Submission number 42 on the inquiry website, see link below) Mr Brederick suggests a community based national organisation be created to assist in providing air services on marginal routes. He says State Governments have no place in licensing air routes or operators.

In contrast, Mr Ranald McFarlane, Managing Director of Macair Airlines (Submission number 76 on the inquiry website) believes State Governments do have a role in protecting routes. Both Mr Brederick and McFarlane say the Civil Aviation Safety Authority impose significant costs on smaller regional airlines.

House Transport Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville MP, says the inquiry has received more than 170 submissions from interested organisations and individuals.

"The evidence shows that while larger centres are well served by the current aviation arrangements, regional and remote Australia is not. Key issues are costs and returns, service levels, interconnectivity between services, the maintenance of country airports, regulation and coordination," Mr Neville said.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Wednesday, 11 June 2003, 10.15am to 2.15pm - Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Brisbane

Scheduled Witnesses:

- Macair Airlines Pty Ltd
- Bundaberg City Council
- Rockhampton City Council
- Mackay Port Authority

Thursday, 12 June 2003, 8.30am to 3pm - Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices, Brisbane

Scheduled Witnesses:

- Paul Brederick
- Dept of Transport and Regional Services
- Airservices Australia
- Qld Government
- Tamworth City Council
- Toowoomba City Council
- Fraser Coast Development Council (Maryborough)

For **media comment**, please contact:

Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (02) 6277 4940

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or visit the Inquiry website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/aviation/index.htm