



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 1 May 2003

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Inquiry into regional aviation in Australia

Public hearings in Wagga Wagga and Sydney, Wednesday 7 May – Thursday 8 May 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 visit **Wagga Wagga** and **Sydney** next week to gather evidence from government, airline operators and airport owners.

House Transport Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville MP, said the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia with 171 submissions received from interested organisations and individuals.

Regional aviation services are adjusting to the significant recent shocks such as fuel contamination, Ansett's collapse, terrorism and insurance. The committee will be taking evidence from some carriers offering regional services," he said.

"While larger centres are well served by the current aviation arrangements, services could be improved to a number of regional centres, particularly those in remote Australia. Key issues are costs and returns, service levels, interconnectivity between services, regulation and coordination," Mr Neville said.

He said, "Another emerging issue is the maintenance of country airports."

Media and the public are most welcome to attend the public hearings, details of which appear below.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Wednesday, 7 May 2003 8.30am – 12.30pm, Country Comfort, Wagga Wagga

Scheduled Witnesses:

- Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
- City of Albury
- Narrandera Shire Council
- Brindabella Airlines
- Singleton Air Services Pty Limited

Thursday, 8 May 2003, 8.45am – 3.15pm, Stamford Sydney Airport, Mascot

Scheduled Witnesses:

- Qantas Airways Ltd
- Integrity Aircraft
- Orange City Council
- Sydney Airports Corporation
- New South Wales Government
- Basair Australia Pty Ltd
- Air Link Pty Limited
- Regional Express

For **media comment**, please contact:

Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (07) 4152 0744

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/index.htm