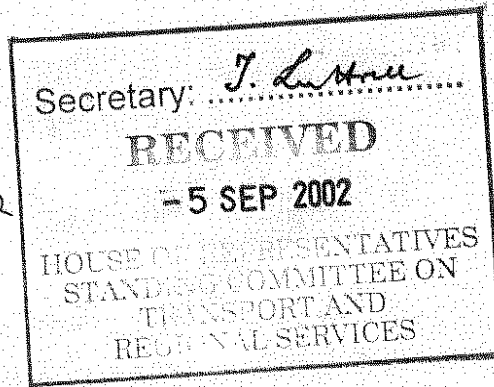


Emailed 30/9/02



"Oakdene"
Lady Barron Road
Ranga
Flinders Island 7255

**The House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services
Canberra A.C.T. 2600**

Sir,

I welcome the opportunity to comment on our transport problems and needs.

For some years now, our air service has been very unsatisfactory. Several airlines have gone out of business and many island people have lost money paid out for air tickets.

What we need is a service that is economical and reliable and available when needed. Referrals to medical specialists are high on the priority list, and we need to be able to travel when the appointment is available and get back when required. At present, it is very difficult to get a seat to and from Launceston and Melbourne when required and it becomes very costly for those requiring frequent treatment. Most of us have family off the island and unless the service is economical we cannot afford to travel to see our relatives. This is particularly hard when elderly parents are involved.

At present, our mail service is very good and the shipping service seems to be adequate. However, it would be a great advantage if suitable passenger accommodation were available on the trip so we could travel with our vehicle. I feel that we should at least get some benefit from the generous subsidy given to the "Spirit of Tasmania" passengers. I realise there is a difference in status, but we need some incentive for tourists also.

J. A. Lees.

Jan & Ady Lees