

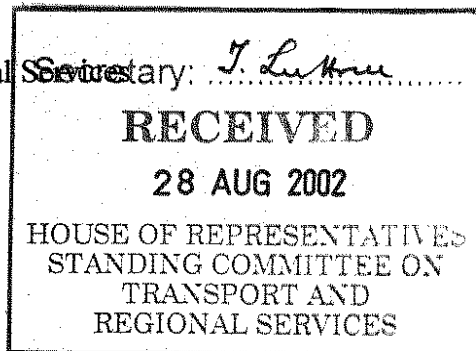
"HEAZLEWOOD"  
 34 Simpson Street  
 DIGBY  
 Phone: 03 5579-3214

PO Box 7  
 DIGBY Vic 3309  
 AUSTRALIA

27 August 2002

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

E-mail: trs.Reps@aph.gov.au



Dear Mr Neville MP,

As a resident of the far south western corner of Victoria, I feel compelled to make this submission to your enquiry about the lack of a reasonable day return air service to our capital city.

As a regional employee in a franchise business, I am often required to attend training sessions in Melbourne to upgrade my skills and maintain product consistency across the franchise. Many of these sessions only last for 1 day but they often start at 09:00am and run to the close of a business day. Our nearest RPT air service operates from Portland Vic. or Mount Gambier S.A. but neither port provides a service that allows for passengers to arrive in Melbourne for the commencement of business nor to leave after the close of a business day. In fact a day return trip on the RPT services from Portland only allows a passenger to arrive late morning and depart mid afternoon, if Essendon Airport is utilised or arrive at lunch time if Tullamarine is utilised. I am of course taking the time required to deplane and travel from the airport to the city into consideration.

Just as the timetable is not suited for day trips, the problems caused by such late arrivals into Melbourne also prevent connection choice for ongoing flights. This affects both the leisure and business markets by forcing travellers to make a choice of over-nighting in Melbourne or driving to Melbourne before travelling further.

To sum up, I feel that there is a need for both earlier and later flights out of and in to this region, with better connectivity to other flights, if it is to develop a vibrant aviation service.

Yours Faithfully



P James Owens-Brownbill.