



AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA

The Secretary
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Legislation Committee(SG62)
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Additional Estimates Session

I refer to my testimony before the Committee on Monday 14 February 2005.

In response to a question by Senator Bishop concerning contact between Airservices and the Minister's office I undertook to clarify the timing and nature of a discussion between myself and the Minister's office.

I would appreciate you bringing the following to the attention of the Committee.

Having now checked my diary notes I believe the discussion with Mr Peter Marchi in relation to the 'rumour' of a possible Ministerial direction most likely occurred on 30 August 2004.

In that discussion I attempted to confirm whether the Minister was considering a direction under s16 of the Air Services Act to stop the Board proceeding with its proposed Airspace changes on 25 November 2004. Mr Marchi indicated that he had no knowledge of such a direction.

Subsequently on the following day, 31 August 2004, Mr Marchi rang me again to advise that he had been asked to contact me to notify Airservices that the Minister (who was interstate) had signed a direction. Mr Marchi read the content to me. We then received a faxed copy of the direction at about 5.20 pm that afternoon.

Mr Marchi made it clear at the time that the direction signed on 31 August was not intended to "block" the airspace changes proposed for 25 November 2004.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this point for the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Tom Grant
General Manager
Corporate Secretary
23 February 2005