

PERTH AIRPORT

13 February 2007

The Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

(Via email - rrat.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION – AIRPORTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Having been involved with the Airports Act Amendment Bill 2006 from an early stage, Perth Airport has closely followed the submissions and testimonies made recently to the Committee.

We believe it is incumbent upon us to offer this supplementary submission to clarify points raised on two matters.

1. RATES

The Committee heard numerous comments and questions regarding the payment of rates to Councils, including:

- i. A statement from the Australian Mayoral Aviation Council that Perth Airport was among those refusing to pay rates and had been up to two years behind. (Committee Hansard, page 9).
- ii. A question from a Committee member regarding an estimate of lost rates to the City of Belmont (Committee Hansard, page 15).
- iii. Comments from the Shopping Centre Council of Australia regarding Perth Airport's rates dispute with the City of Belmont and uncertainty regarding the actual quantum of rates paid by airports (Committee Hansard, page 41).

Perth Airport offers that it has paid in excess of \$9 million in lieu of rates to the City of Belmont since 1997 to become its biggest ratepayer. In 2006/07 alone we have paid an additional \$2,077,780, a figure that will climb significantly as the estate develops. These payments represent payment in full, since 1997, of the amount of the rate levied by the City of Belmont.

We believe that debate over such large sums is healthy from both a corporate governance and public policy viewpoint. We are establishing a stronger, more cooperative relationship that will deliver better outcomes for the community and the shareholders of Perth Airport as a result.

2. PARKING ENFORCEMENT


The Committee heard comments in relation to parking enforcement at Perth Airport, including the perception that airport staff (characterised as “goons”) were discouraging cars from parking along Brearley Avenue, which leads to the domestic terminals, in an effort to increase its parking revenues (Committee Hansard, page 54).

Perth Airport would like to clarify that the land in question is outside the airport boundary and belongs to the City of Belmont and is therefore not monitored by Perth Airport staff.

The airport fully supports Council’s efforts to discourage illegal parking along this road, as it is extremely dangerous and has been the subject of numerous complaints from airport tenants involved in near-miss accidents. When parked cars leave the side of Brearley Avenue, they immediately join large volumes of traffic travelling at the signed limit of 70kph posing a clear threat to public safety.

We hope the above is of assistance to the Committee in its final deliberations on the Airports Act Amendment Bill 2006. Thank you for the opportunity to again submit our views.

Yours sincerely



DAVID PRICE
COMPANY SECRETARY