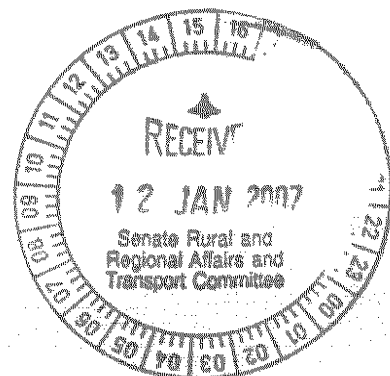


Local
Government
Association
of the
Northern
Territory

Our Ref: T02

8 January 2007

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport Committee
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO THE AIRPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 2006

This letter is a submission from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory ('the Association') to the above inquiry.

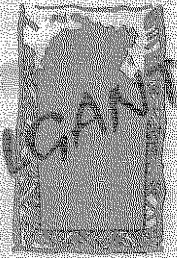
The Association supports the views of the Australian Local Government Association in respect of the proposed legislation, namely:

- that the statutory period for consultation be a minimum of 60 days for development plans to do with airports
- that commercial developments on airport land be subject to the same planning provisions that apply to such developments elsewhere
- that commercial developments on airport land be subject to the same local government rating and services charge provisions imposed on such developments elsewhere including the requirement for developer contributions for infrastructure
- that consideration be given to the effect commercial developments on airport land will have on commercial activities adjoining airport land.

Overall the Association is concerned that commercial developments on airport land are likely to proliferate over time placing demands on councils services without councils having the power to recover revenue from such operations which could help meet those demands.

The Association also has major concerns about the competitive advantage that commercial developments on airport land are likely to have over existing nearby commercial operators. The Association considers that the Australian Government has no grounds for allowing developments which provide this advantage.

Furthermore, the scale of such developments, if not properly managed, (so they comply with State and Territory planning legislation) could lead to inappropriate and incompatible developments taking place next to each other on airport land. This in turn could then also lead to costly upgrades in the



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future as is often the case with developments that are not subject to the discipline of planning. In other words, planning laws in Australia provide a very useful purpose in regulating developments whereas the Australian Government for some reason does not see this as being necessary on airport land. The Association considers this is an anomaly the government needs to fix because the potential impact of it is wide reaching, particularly on local government's limited revenue base.

Yours sincerely

Kerry Moir
President