



SUBMISSION 63

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES

Facsimile Transmission

To: Quinton Clements

Fax No: 6277 8478

Phone: 6277 2135

From: Mick Farmer
Territories and Local Govt Division

Fax Number: 61 2 6274 8040

Phone: 61 2 6274 6221

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Quinton

As discussed, a response to the question on notice from p246 of the transcript of the Public Hearing of 12 May 2003 is attached.

Regards,

Mick Farmer



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The Commonwealth Government's approach to international air services

It is Australian Government policy to pursue liberal arrangements in the area of international air services. To do this the Government will, when it is in the national interest, negotiate reciprocal 'open skies' arrangements with like-minded countries. Where an 'open skies' framework cannot be negotiated, or the implementation of 'open skies' is not in the national interest, Australia will seek the most liberal arrangements possible. This includes the 'regional airports access package', which provides for unrestricted access for foreign and Australian carriers into both Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (as well as all other international airports in Australia other than Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth).

Northern Gateways

The 'regional airports access package' provides Australian and foreign carriers with unrestricted access to Australian international airports other than Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Australia offers these arrangements to its bilateral aviation partners as consultations are held.

Cabotage

It is Australian Government policy that only Australian-based airlines should carry Australian domestic passengers and freight. The Government permits foreign persons, including airlines, to establish their own operations in the domestic aviation market, or to purchase up to 100% ownership of Australian domestic airlines, unless this is deemed contrary to the national interest by the Foreign Investment Review Board. Australian international airlines and Qantas are subject to separate ownership restrictions. In exceptional circumstances, the Government will grant dispensations to foreign carriers to operate ad-hoc cabotage services. This ensures that goods and passengers continue to move when Australian-based airlines cannot provide services.

