

Townsville Airport

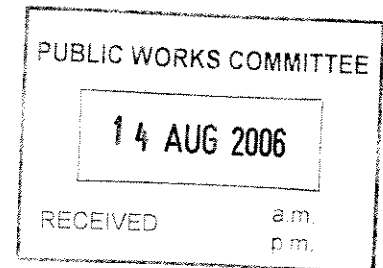
14th August 2006

Ref: TAPL \NAACEX

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT. 2600

facsimile 02 62774426

Attention: Mr Jason Sherd :



Re: Facilities for Troop Lift Helicopter, RAAF Base Townsville, QLD

Dear Mr Sherd,

Townsville Airport Pty Ltd (TAPL) is the leaseholder of the Joint User Area of the Townsville Airport facility in conjunction with DOD. TAPL has been engaged in discussions with key DOD personnel over the previous five months on the development of the Northern Australian Aeronautical Centre of Excellence (NAACEX) which is designed to compliment and improve the operations of both civilian and military activities at Townsville Airport. To date TAPL has invested substantially investigating and planning for the facilities to meet world class standards and designed such that they can be utilised for all levels of aircraft maintenance including online and depot maintenance as well as painting of aircraft.

TAPL supports the activities of DOD at Townsville Airport and sees the development of the NAACEX as complimentary to the operations at RAAF Base Townsville. The area identified for this development is to the north of the existing terminal and general aviation area and is sufficient to provide both deep maintenance activities and logistics and warehousing for Defence operations. The facilities have been designed to the highest of Defence security levels and will match or exceed world standards This would enable the DOD to maintain a separation between the operations and maintenance activities on their aircraft at the same time providing sufficient area for growth of such facilities.

TAPL has met with senior defence Staff to provide a broad brush briefing of the intent of the development and the path we intend to take. We would be pleased to brief Defence Personnel on the details of the NAACEX project that TAPL is embarking on. This will give clarity and assurance to DOD of the progress and investment that TAPL has put to such a significant facility for Townsville and Northern Australia. This development by TAPL has the support of the cities representatives and is paramount to developing this industry to this region of Australia.

In summary TAPL is extremely supportive of the development at RAAF Base Townsville. Townsville is the most suitable strategic location in Australia for positioning and support of the MRH90. We feel confident that the NAACEX initiative by TAPL offers an alternative for the DOD when considering the most cost effective way in which to provide facilities and services to support the MRH90 and other DOD owned platforms and systems.

As the General Manager of TAPL, I would like to provide a briefing to the committee on the opportunities the NAACEX Project provides both DCD and the wider community and as such am available to give evidence at the public works hearing this Friday 18th August.

Contact details for Mr Franzmann are: ph.07 47 273211;.

Email: afranzmann@qldairports.com.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Franzmann', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Andrew Franzmann
General Manager TAPL.