

Secretary: *J. Lubbock*

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30 AUG 2002

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES

SUBMISSION NO. 105

**Multi Purpose Centre
Whitemark
Flinders Island 7255
Tasmania**

**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
Canberra A.C.T. 2600**

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission on our air transport.

I am seventy-eight years of age and a great grandmother, confined permanently in the Multi Purpose Centre. My family, like most others, left the island to further their education early in their lives and most have not returned through lack of work. This means that if we are to see our families in our declining years, we need an economical and reliable air service so they can afford to visit their families. We need a reasonable sized aircraft as I personally found it hard to board the smaller aircraft, especially as I became older.

The service by Southern Shipping with the ferry appears to be adequate and obviously viable. I consider it would be an added advantage if that vessel had more passenger accommodation. Quite a number of clients like to travel with their vehicle.

I am not qualified to give an opinion on the type of service we need for air transport but it must be viable. Too many have become insolvent taking local money with them. Charter aircraft have their place, but take revenue from the regular service. I don't know the answer to that!

There has been much publicity on the benefits to visitors to the State on the new ferries. There was absolutely no benefit for island people. It costs us in the vicinity of \$600 to take our vehicles to Launceston and no reduction. I can only imagine what a push bike costs to take to Launceston!

I should mention here that our mail service is the best I can ever remember- reliable and on time, making it much easier for the Post Office to handle.

I hope that your Committee will be able to help us get a better air service and thus help keep our island's economy; making living here an much better option for everyone.

Olga Henwood {Mrs}