



Parkes Shire Council

Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents.

SB:LT

Contact Person: Steve Barry

5 September 2002

Secretary: *J. Lubbe*

RECEIVED

12 SEP 2002

House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND
REGIONAL SERVICES

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: INQUIRY INTO COMMERCIAL REGIONAL AVIATION SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA AND TRANSPORT LINKS TO MAJOR POPULATED ISLANDS

In response to the call for submissions on the above inquiry, Parkes Shire Council would like the Standing Committee to consider the following comments on regional services to Parkes.

Parkes Airport serves a Shire population of 15,000 and the regional towns of Forbes (Shire population of 10,000) and Condobolin (Shire population of 7,000). A wide range of industry and the greater community in the region rely on air services to Sydney. Industries/business in the region include mining, transport, wool processing, livestock, the Western Region office of the Roads and Traffic Authority, local Councils, and businesses.

The regional users have become accustomed to, and now expect, a reasonable air service to Sydney. Issues relating to the Parkes air service that the business and general community consider must be addressed include:

- A guarantee of continuity of services to Parkes
- A reliable interconnection to interstate air services
- The maintenance of a reasonable size of aircraft i.e. SAAB 340
- Direct services where possible
- Reasonable pricing to ensure affordability for users.

It is considered that both State and Federal Governments have a responsibility by way of community service obligations to ensure that regional air services are maintained to address the decline in services to rural areas of Australia.

Parkes Council is incurring a substantial loss in the operation of Parkes Airport in its endeavours to maintain the Airport licensed and to keep landing fees at a minimum to meet Council's community obligations.

Your consideration of these issues is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Alan McCormack
GENERAL MANAGER

per: 
STEVE BARRY
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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