



**Peak Agency for Economic Development**

26 February, 2009

The Hon Anthony Albanese  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Minister

**Re: Response to Aviation Green Paper**

Advance Cairns has been working with Tropical Tourism North Queensland, Cairns Airport and other interested business entities in the region to develop a proposal for the review into the National Aviation Policy. We believe that a strong and viable airport is of paramount importance for regional economic sustainability.

However we were very disappointed that the thrust of the National Aviation Green Paper published in December failed to take on board many of the concerns that we addressed in our regional proposal. We believe that the policy does not address the needs of smaller regional airports such as the Cairns Airport.

The assembled group felt that there were three primary options available to create further incentives for International Airlines to operate out of regional airports. These include:-

- Offering beyond rights' capacity to international airlines on flights operated out of airports other than the big four – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane & Perth;
- Allowing triangulation rights with the major airports;
- Allowing Australian carriers holding an Australian Air Operators Certificate – irrespective of 'principal place of business' or ownership – should be permitted to operate international air services to and from regional airports.

The other issue of significant importance is the charges for security and other federal regulatory requirements. Whilst these charges can be spread over large numbers at big city airports, it means that the per-passenger fee is much higher at smaller airports making those airports less cost efficient and/or attractive for the airlines.

Advance Cairns believes that this review process offers Australia a big chance to change some of the barriers that are holding back regional airports. Unfortunately if left unaltered the Green Paper does not address these fundamental constraints.

Thank you for reading this letter and considering our issues.

Yours truly

Ross Contarino  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
cc: Jim Turnour Member for Leichhardt

**ADVANCE CAIRNS LIMITED**

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