

From: Kim Thomas [mailto:kim@bigcat-cruises.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2009 4:07 PM
To: Aviation Statement
Subject: Aviation Green Paper

Dear Minister,

Regarding the National Aviation Policy Green Paper published in December 2008, our company is very concerned and deeply disappointed about the directions currently contained within this document.

The Green Paper avoids addressing an extremely poor policy that is adversely affecting Australia's regional airports. We agree completely with TTNQ's position that there are three primary options available to create further incentives for airlines to operate international routes out of regional airports:

- Offering 'beyond rights' capacity to international airlines on flights operated out of airports other than the Big Four – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.
- Triangulation rights with major airports could also increase the number of services in regional airports.
- 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.

We believe that the government should examine air access initiatives on a "case by case" scenario, with the outcome based on the 'greatest good' for Australia as a whole.

In light of the current disastrous situation and the dismal forecasts for our industry in this region we very strongly believe that the current Policy Paper should be re-visited to address the issues raised herein.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration with our request to support the development and growth of regional airports and cities.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Thomas
General Manager

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