

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2009 11:26 AM

To: Aviation Statement

Cc: Jim.Turnour.mp@aph.gov.au

Subject:

Dear Minister

I write in response to the National Aviation Policy Green Paper, published in December 2008.

The Green Paper avoids addressing a failed policy as it affects Australia's regional airports. 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, rather than close the door on all of the initiatives put forward by TTNQ and Cairns Airport, 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.

Landing charges for a wide bodied jet now amounts to a staggering \$20,000 per landing. Carriers are deterred to land here because of this expense with 60% of this amount going to the Federal Government and the other 40% being distributed to the airport management.

Tourism contributed to 1 in 3 people being employed by the tourist industry in this area and most likely the same amount of numbers in regional areas.

Massive unemployment in these areas will result with the government being liable for millions of dollars in welfare payments; many businesses are now tottering and going to the wall. I ask you wouldn't it be better if the government subsidized these flights and kept our local economy going with full employment at the same time keeping their coffers full with tourism tax dollars.

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

Yours sincerely

Aviation access is a key to sustaining our industry, your action supporting a better deal for regional airports is critical.

John Murphy