



# PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

*Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents*

SB:LT

Contact Person: Steve Barry

26 June 2008

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601



Dear Sir/Madam

## **RE: TOWARDS A NATIONAL AVIATION POLICY STATEMENT - ISSUES PAPER**

Parkes Shire Council considered the Issues Paper at the 24 June 2008 meeting where the possible effects on Parkes Regional Airport were discussed. The following comments are provided for your consideration.

### Section 1-1 International Services

#### *Growing the Regions and Cargo.*

Parkes is being further developed as a national transport hub given the strategic location enabling road/rail freight movement Australia wide. Enabling freight movement by air to regional areas would link to the existing transport hub strategy.

Council considers that regional air freight possibilities should be fully explored including regional freight centres such as Parkes.

### Section 1-3 Regional and General Aviation

#### *Key Challenges - Regional Air Services*

It is considered that the Australian Government should investigate ways of providing greater support to guarantee air services to Regional Australia, as well as ensuring adequate infrastructure exists to support the services. This could be through fuel excise being channelled back into the marginal airports for both maintenance and provision of infrastructure, and greater support for the airlines. Greater monitoring of airlines may also be an advantage to minimise the possibility of unfair practices in negotiations with marginal airports.

#### *Key challengers - General Aviation*

The emphasis to assist general aviation to gain economical access to airports and "ensuring those airports continue to invest to support the industry" may be applicable to larger airports.

The already struggling marginal airports are caught in between attracting general aviation and meeting the costs of airport maintenance. It is critical that these airports are supported by Governments to enable general aviation to grow.

Section 2-1 Airport Planning and Development

*Future Airport Needs*

As commented in Section 1-1 opportunities exist to link airfreight with existing freight hubs in regional Australia, such as Parkes, and these should be seriously considered.

*Pricing of Airport Services*

Again the emphasis is on airport pricing being under review. Assistance is essential to the smaller airports to allow fees to be set to attract consumers and also help offset some of the costs.

I trust these comments are considered so as not to ignore the plight faced by many regional centres trying to provide an airport to service their communities.

Yours faithfully

Alan McCormack  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

per:   
Steve Barry  
**DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**