



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 21 Feb 2003

Chair: Paul Neville MP

Inquiry into regional aviation in Australia

Public hearings in Tasmania and Victoria, 24 – 26 February 2003

The House of Representatives Transport and Regional Services Committee is examining the adequacy of regional aviation services and transport links to Australia's major populated islands.

As part of its inquiry, the Committee will visit **Tasmania, Flinders Island** and **Victoria** next week to gather evidence from government, airline operators, airport owners, industry and the community.

House Transport Committee Chair, Mr Paul Neville MP, said the inquiry has generated considerable interest around Australia with 164 submissions received from interested organisations and individuals.

"While industry and the community in larger centres are well served by the current arrangements, services could be improved to a number of regional communities, particularly those in remote areas of Australia," Mr Neville said.

"We will be looking at where costs can be reduced, and regulation and coordination improved."

Media and the public are most welcome to attend the public hearings, details of which appear below.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Monday, 24 February 2003 10.00am – 4.45pm at the Launceston International Hotel, Launceston

Scheduled Witnesses:

Hon Sue Napier MHA, Parliament of Tasmania
Cradle Coast Authority
Northern Tasmania Regional Development Board
Tourism Council of Tasmania
Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

Tuesday, 25 February 2003, 9.15am – 4.00pm at the Local Government Chambers, Flinders Island

Scheduled Witnesses:

Flinders Island Tourism Association	Community and business representatives
Furneaux Enterprise Centre	Flinders Council
Tourism industry operators	Island Airlines Tasmania

Wednesday, 26 February 2003, 9am – 5.15pm at the Tullamarine Airport Motor Inn, Tullamarine

Scheduled Witnesses:

Latrobe City Council	Southern Grampians Shire Council
Mildura Rural City Council	King Island Council
Edge Aviation	East Gippsland Shire Council
Champions of the Bush	Shire of Glenelg
Australian Airports Association	

For **media comment**, please contact:

Paul Neville, House Transport and Regional Services Committee Chair, on (07) 4152 0744

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2352 or visit the Inquiry website at

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/trs/index.htm