SUBMISSION NO 125

Dundas, Ian (REPS)

From: Nadene McLeod [nadene@snowy.net.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 4 September 2002 12:46

To: Trs.Reps@aph.gov.au Subject: regional air services

Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce's VISION - Our Overall Objective:

The Premier Snowy River Business Forum

To be seen as the most effective organization in

Snowy River Shire that people can approach in order

to facilitate the establishment and development of ideas,

events and infrastructure, which assists the economic,

employment and business growth of Jindabyne and the Snowy River Shire community.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND REGIONAL SERVICES, PARLIAMENT HOUSE A.C.T. 2600

To Whom It Concerns:

Regional air services to the Snowy Mountains region are essential for the ongoing viability for the local economy and to allow growth within the region. In the past, air service providers have generally been keen for the winter months as the service has a strong patronage. Outside the ski season the providers have often been reluctant to continue the services and only have

done so due to agreements being put in place.

Recently released ABS 2001 figures show Snowy River Shire is the FIFTH fastest growing Shire in NSW with 3.4% increase since 1996. The level of growth will be affected by the ability of the region to retain the current services available and to extend upon them.

For the region to continue to grow, there must be an increase in business activity of a year round basis rather than of just a seasonal basis. The communications and technology fields now allow people to live and work within the region whereas in the past they have been restricted to the cities. These same people rely on services such as air services in conducting their business. The discontinuance of air services will serve to detract from personal and business investment in the three Shires of Snowy River, Cooma Monaro and Bombala, at a time when the government is trying to encourage decentralisation away from the cities. Transport options are the only way that decentralisation can be successful to regional areas.

The encouragement of business activity to create local employment is essential for any regional growth; especially with the current population increasing as statistics indicate is the case in Snowy River Shire. The Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce welcomes the facilitation of year round regional air service to our region through prudent support from the government departments involved.



Regards,

Nadene McLeod Moir

Chair, JCC

(Jindabyne Chamber of Commerce information can be replied to at this e-mail address, or ph / fax 6456-2424) See www.snowyriver.nsw.gov.au for Chamber info