Our Ref: SPR/59/3002-1 Your Ref: Enquiries: Rob Stewart

29 July 2002

Ian Dundas Committee Secretary House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ian

Subject: <u>Enquiry into Commercial Regional Aviation Services in Australia and</u> <u>Alternative Transport Links to Major Populated Islands</u>

Thank you for your letter dated 5 July 2002 addressed to Cr Kevin Forbes and handed to me for response.

The Shire of Plantagenet is generally satisfied with air services, utilising Albany Airport.

The one concern that crops up though relates to inequities regarding the cost of airfares. For example, an Albany-Perth return economy airfare by Skywest costs \$314. A Perth-Broome return economy airfare via Qantas costs \$603.99, which includes \$103.99 in fees and charges.

By comparison a Perth-Bali holiday for six nights via Qantas would cost \$870.

These prices have been obtained off the internet and we acknowledge that prices can change depending on conditions of purchase. Nevertheless, price disparities are a disincentive for inter of intra state travel in Australia.

The opportunity to comment is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Shed.

Rob Stewart CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER