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A5-1



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“Regional Centre in Western NSW”

Tuesday, 19 August 2014

Madeleine Foley
Director – Committees

State.Development@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Madeleine,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL AVIATION SERVICES – PRESENTATION BY
MAYOR LILLIANE BRADY OAM AND GENERAL MANAGER GARY WOODMAN,
COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL – DUBBO 24 JULY 2014**

I refer to your letter dated 1 August 2014 concerning the above.

There is no need to correct the transcript.

In regard to the following questions on notice taken during the hearing I advise as follows:

Questions

Mr SCOT MacDONALD: You have answered a couple of questions of mine but I want to explore the Brindabella debt of \$51,000. This is a question that I have put to other councils that have lost money from Brindabella or Vincent. You can take this on notice if you like. Would you support a levy to build a fund in the event of future failures – say, 10, 20 or 50 cents per passenger – to build up a bit of a reserve to compensate council in the future?

Ms BRADY: I would.

Mr SCOT MacDONALD: You can take that on notice if you like.

Ms BRADY: Yes. I would.

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: If this Committee is to make any recommendation around a monitoring regime on RPT providers, do you have a suggestion on what monitoring regime would be so that this doesn't happen again?

Mr WOODMAN: We got to the stage of thinking of bonds.

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: You can take that on notice if you want and come back to us.

Ms BRADY: Perhaps the Government can back them up.

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: I am happy for you to take that on notice, think it through and come back with a more detailed response.

Response

Cobar Shire council would support the imposition of a small levy for compensation of Councils owning Regional Airports for future airline failures if the levy is contained within the airline ticket price and collected and administered by the NSW Government through NSW Transport and that if over time a large amount of funds is collected that those funds be returned for improvement to regional airports. In regards to a monitoring regime on RPT providers NSW Transport should be responsible for the proper monitoring of the financial health of companies providing regional RPT air services and have the ability to provide appropriate alerts to the Aviation Industry.

Yours faithfully

Gary Woodman
GENERAL MANAGER