

**Submission
No 14**

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL AVIATION SERVICES

Organisation: Griffith Business Chamber

Date received: 12/03/2014

Dear Director,

Submission to Inquiry into Regional Aviation Services

On Behalf of Griffith Business Chamber I make this submission.

Regional communities like ours find transport a major issue. It takes us 5 hours to drive to Melbourne & 6 hours to Sydney in our own cars, we have little if any Passenger bus services 11+ hours & one train a week from Sydney 11 + hours.

We see air transport to Sydney & Melbourne as an essential service for business, health, international transfers, tourism & recreation from Griffith + surrounding communities.

We do not feel it as fair or equitable that so much money is subsidised into transport like Rail, Roads, Public transport etc. & when it comes to Air Transport - a user pays argument arises.

The costs of security & airports should not be burdened onto Council's and communities with landing fees etc.

These costs should be considered in the overall budget of transport across the Nation or State - after all it is in the national interest particularly for Tourism & decentralisation strategies.

Airfares must be affordable for commuters & then airlines should offer proper schedule's to fill planes & remain profitable.

Taxes & landing fees on Plane fairs need to be borne by Government not passengers & councils.

Talk of Very Fast Trains & pie in the sky concepts seem unviable with our population & distances involved but this Government budgeting solution is achievable & will produce excellent results across all of Australia if implemented.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Pierotti

Griffith Business Chamber