



In reply please quote

30/808

Inquiry into Airport Regulation  
Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428,  
Canberra City ACT 2601

17 November 2011

**RE: AIRPORT RENTAL COSTS FOR BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) would like to register its interest for an inquiry to be conducted by the Productive Commission, Economic Regulation of Airport Services Inquiry, into the economic regulation of airport in relation to the provision meteorological services to the Aviation Industry.

The Bureau provides an essential service to the Aviation Industry in the provision of meteorological forecasts and observations at International and Regional Airports across Australia. The Bureau's role in providing services for civil aviation is established through the Meteorology Act. Under the Convention for International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) the Bureau is the designated Meteorological Authority for Australia and also provides meteorological services for civil aviation in Australia in accordance with the standards and practices set out in Annex 3 to the Convention. In fulfilling this mandate it works closely with Airservices Australia, which is responsible for air traffic services, and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), which is responsible for the safety regulation of civil aviation in Australia.

In recent discussions with a number of Airport Operators, including Sydney Airport, the Bureau of Meteorology had been advised that future leasing arrangements for a number of existing and planned observation infrastructure sites, observations and forecasting offices will in the future move to a full commercial leasing arrangement. Costs proposed under these leasing arrangements will lead to significant increases in Bureau expenditure, which would likely be maintained indefinitely. These costs would then need to be passed on to the Aviation Industry.

In order to address these proposed changes the Bureau has, through its Aviation Industry Consultative Process, submitted a paper to Australian Strategic Air Traffic Management Group (ASTRA) and the Board of Airline Representatives of Australia (BARA) to request that meteorological services to the Aviation Industry be added to the list of essential services to be provided by airports. This would allowed the Bureau to be exempt from being charged full commercial rental rates for its offices at Australian Airports where it provides a service to the Aviation Industry.

Following this submission the Bureau was advised by ASTRA that they could not make a ruling on the proposal. Following additional consultation through the Bureau's Aviation Consultative

Process the Aviation Industry proposed that the Bureau make a submission to the Productivity Commission to the Economic Regulation of Airport Services Inquiry in relation to the airport rentals for operated sites and offices.

If you have any questions regarding this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Alasdair Hainsworth  
Assistant Director Services  
Bureau of Meteorology