



Media Release

Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Deregulating State air services would be a disaster – Eggleston

Tuesday 21st April 2009

Liberal Senator Alan Eggleston today expressed concern over the potential deregulation of air services in WA, and the negative impact it would have on regional Western Australia.

“Deregulating Western Australia’s air services would be a disaster for remote and regional WA,” Senator Eggleston said.

The Senator said he was concerned that, if the deregulation were to take place, many of WA’s regional towns would no longer be accessible by plane, and be left at a disadvantage.

“Many of the current routes to regional and remote WA could not sustain two providers, and the inevitable result would be a loss of services,” he said.

Senator Eggleston pointed to Qantas’s entry into WA as an example which, at the time, promised lower fares and greater benefits for regional customers.

“Despite expectations, the entry of Qantas as a competitive air service provider in WA resulted in Ansett cutting its services to towns including Carnarvon and Exmouth, which had been cross subsidized by routes to Hedland, Karratha, Broome and Kalgoorlie,” Senator Eggleston said.

“Qantas ignored these cancelled routes and ultimately left these remote communities without access to jet services,” he said.

“The future of Western Australia lies in our regional communities, and we need to promote, not stifle, growth in places such as Kalbarri, Carnarvon and Albany,”

“The provision of air services in Western Australia is finely balanced, and any proposed changes to the current arrangements need to be considered in the best interests of the regional communities they affect.”

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