



Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives

The Hon GARY HARDGRAVE MP

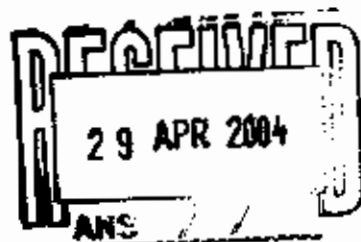
Federal Member for Moreton
Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs



Ref: GH:am

22 April 2004

Cr J Prentice
Councillor
Councillor For Walter Taylor
Shop 4001a, Level 4
Westfield Shoppingtown
INDOOROOPILLY QLD 4068



Dear Cr Prentice

Jane

RE: Archerfield Airport

I write to update you on recent proposals by Jetstar and OzJet to base their Brisbane operations at Archerfield Airport.

I would like to say at the outset that I oppose Archerfield Airport being used by any airline for day-to-day operations. I believe that the impact on local residents and the costs of upgrading the facilities is just too great.

Jetstar have now ruled out using Archerfield. The main reason being the runways are too short to land the aircraft they wish to use. This would indicate to me that Jetstar have put no thought into the proposal before going public and causing unnecessary concern for local residents.

The second proposal has come from OzJet. They propose to use smaller aircraft but have not explained where the funding will come from to upgrade the facilities to manage day-to-day operations of passenger jets.

I have included a copy of an article from *The Australian* newspaper dated 20 March 2004 which states that the launch of this airline has been delayed by at least 18 months because of objections of local residents and the Federal Government who don't want OzJet flying into secondary airports such as Archerfield.

If I can be of any further assistance in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Gary Hardgrave
Gary Hardgrave



THE AUSTRALIAN

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL DAILY NEWSPAPER

Print this page

Ozjet fails to secure take-off clearance

By Steve Creedy, Aviation writer
20mar04

PLANS by motor racing identity Paul Stoddart to start an Australian airline have been put on hold again as the Ozjet start-up grapples with difficulties getting access to secondary airports.

Ozjet chief executive Peter Schott said yesterday the project had been put back about 18 months because of problems with "due process".

But he said the plans had been slowed down rather than shelved. "Later down the track, we will bring things together again."

Ozjet wanted to serve a niche market using BAe 146 aircraft flying to secondary airports such as Sydney's Bankstown and Melbourne's Moorabbin. Mr Stoddart said earlier this month that the airline would be flying by the fourth quarter.

But it was facing an uphill battle winning acceptance for its secondary airport concept, with opposition from residents as well as the NSW and federal governments.

The Australian announcement also comes as a European air charter company started by Mr Stoddart announced it would axe 560 of 600 staff in a drastic restructuring designed to placate creditors. Mr Schott said the Australian decision was not related to the European problems. "It essentially won't affect our business and it doesn't involve me personally," he said.

European Aviation Air Charters specialises in executive charter flights and was reportedly started by Mr Stoddart using aircraft and spares bought from the RAAF. The former Melbourne car dealer told Air Transport Intelligence he intended to retake control of the company and to relaunch a reduced flying program on May 1.

He was thought to have sold the company to the Bath Travel tour company in 2002, keeping control of a spare parts division not affected by layoffs.

But he said the November 2002 agreement with Bath Travel was never completed and he was now moving to take up the reins again.

It is understood a final payment was not made.

He blamed the problems on a consultancy which had been running the operation for the past 18 months.

"Unfortunately, after the proposed sale of EAAC was agreed in November 2002 the company embarked on a program of ambitious, but ultimately unsustainable growth overseen by a management consultant company," he told ATI.

"When the proposed purchase recently collapsed, I felt I had a moral duty to step back in and try to ensure the continued survival of EAAC."

privacy

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The Hon Gary Hardgrave MP

Federal Member for Moreton

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

Minister for Citizenship & Multicultural Affairs



Tuesday, 9 March 2004

Media Release

Federal Member for Moreton Gary Hardgrave defended local residents again today following an announcement that Formula One boss Paul Stoddart wanted to operate his budget airline OzJet from Archerfield Airport.

Mr Hardgrave said while Qantas' low-fare carrier Jetstar have now ruled out the use of Archerfield as a site for passenger aircraft, OzJet learnt nothing from the Jetstar embarrassment. This is another equally ridiculous suggestion on the table.

"Despite only having six jets planned for the entire fleet, Archerfield is not a viable option for this kind of operation.

"It's got the hallmarks of a complete misunderstanding of what Archerfield Airport's infrastructure really is capable of managing," Mr Hardgrave said.

"Archerfield will require tens of millions of dollars in funding to be spent just to upgrade facilities.

"It is simply not capable of managing the day-to-day operations of passenger jets. I don't support the idea one bit."

Mr Hardgrave said the lack of support shown to local residents by Peter Beattie last week after Jetstar's proposal had clearly sent a signal to operators that Archerfield was a viable option.

"OzJet and the State Government have got it wrong and it makes absolutely no sense to me why anyone flying in and out of Brisbane would want to do so out of Archerfield instead of airports connected to other flights and transport infrastructure."

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The Hon Gary Hardgrave MP

Federal Member for Moreton

Minister Assisting the Prime Minister

Minister for Citizenship & Multicultural Affairs



Friday, 27 February 2004

Media Release

ARCHERFIELD AND JETSTAR: WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER

Federal Member for Moreton Gary Hardgrave today criticised the Queensland Premier over his support for new airline Jetstar's proposal to operate from Archerfield Airport.

Mr Hardgrave said he was angry Peter Beattie had not backed his opposition to the Archerfield Airport proposal, instead leaving the door open to aircraft flying in and out of an unsuitable airport for large jets.

"If this issue was raised a month ago, Peter Beattie would have objected but now that the election results are in the bag, he is supporting the idea," he said.

"I have said upfront that Jetstar's proposal to operate 717 and A320 jet aircraft from Archerfield will only happen when hell freezes over.

"In a 4BC radio interview this morning we heard Peter Beattie making excuses for why this plan could work, clearly demonstrating he – and Jetstar – have no understanding of Archerfield or the surrounding areas," Mr Hardgrave said.

"I wonder if he's asked local residents what they think of the idea of having jet aircraft flying over their homes and the associated noise pollution that would destroy their quality of life."

Mr Hardgrave said the whole idea was ridiculous when considering somewhere in the order of \$100 million would have to be spent on the airport just to upgrade facilities.

"Archerfield has a 60-year-old terminal, no space for expansion and the flight path from its grassed cross-runway is directly over retirement homes in Acacia Ridge.

"Archerfield Airport is simply not capable of managing the day-to-day operations of passenger jets.

"It is however an important base for training pilots and if Jetstar came in it would price long established businesses out of Archerfield.

"If they want to operate out of Archerfield Airport then they will have to change their name to Propstar."

Mr Hardgrave said he had spoken with Federal Transport Minister John Anderson's office which had to date received no proposal from Jetstar.

"The Minister's office told me Archerfield in its present state was totally unsuitable for such operations and that the proposal couldn't possibly be serious.

"Peter Beattie and his mates at Qantas and Jetstar should be aware that I will do everything in my power to ensure Jetstar aircraft never use Archerfield Airport no matter how good an idea he thinks it is," Mr Hardgrave said.

Media Contact: Heidi Braithwaite – 0409 140 051