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Friday 29th November, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Darling Downs Aero Club, I am writing to express our strong support for the request of Toowoomba City Airport leaseholders to engage in collective bargaining for the renewal of leases. We believe that this collective approach is critical for securing fair and sustainable lease terms, ensuring the long-term viability of businesses operating at the airport, and fostering continued support for local services and employment.

Toowoomba City Airport is a hub for a wide variety of important businesses, including pilot training schools, aircraft maintenance services, and emergency response services. The airport plays a vital role in the economic and social fabric of the Toowoomba region, supporting both commercial and community operations. However, the Toowoomba Regional Council's ongoing delays in renewing leases for businesses at the airport have created a significant amount of uncertainty, threatening the stability of these enterprises and their ability to plan for the future.

We believe collective bargaining will bring several key benefits to all leaseholders at the Toowoomba City Airport:

Better Lease Terms: Collective bargaining will enable us to secure fairer rents and longer lease agreements, providing businesses with the security needed to operate and grow.

Increased Efficiency: Pooling our efforts for negotiations will reduce the legal and administrative costs associated with individual contract discussions, allowing for smoother, more effective negotiations.

Public Benefits: Ensuring the stability and growth of businesses at the airport will have a direct positive impact on local services, employment opportunities, and community engagement. The continuity of operations at the airport supports vital services, including emergency response, training, and maintenance, which contribute to public safety and regional development.

We are aware that some may raise concerns regarding potential competition implications. It is important to note that the businesses operating at the Toowoomba City Airport are diverse in nature, with each serving a distinct segment of the aviation industry. This diversity, combined with the voluntary participation of each business in collective bargaining, ensures that any competition concerns are adequately addressed. We urge the ACCC to approve this notification, enabling leaseholders at Toowoomba City Airport to negotiate collectively for better terms. This would allow us to continue supporting essential community services, employment, and the overall economic health of the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Organ-Moore

Head of Operations, Darling Downs Aero Club