Federal Airports Corporation Amendment Bill 1988

Date Introduced: 19 October 1988
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Ralph Willis, M.P., Minister for Transport and Communications

Digest of Bill

Purpose
To allow the Federal Airports Corporation (FAC) to operate airports on land leased from the Commonwealth and to enter into arrangements for joint use of airports with the Defence Force.

Background
Under the Air Navigation Act 1920, the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the control of air navigation in Australia. Over the years, this responsibility has been interpreted broadly and has encompassed the establishment and operation of civil airports, the provision of air traffic services, search, rescue and fire fighting services and the development and enforcement of air safety regulations.

As of 1 January 1988 a new statutory body, the FAC, took responsibility for the Commonwealth's major civilian airports, on a commercial basis. Seventeen airports were transferred from the Commonwealth to the FAC at a cost of $1.095 billion. The functions of the FAC are to operate Federal airports in Australia and to provide the Commonwealth, States, local government bodies, and other persons, who operate, or propose to operate, airports with consultancy and management services relating to the development and operation of those airports. Since commencing operations, the FAC has made an operating profit of $1.82 million. In the same period, capital works to the value of $7.93 million have been carried out at airports under FAC control. The FAC employs 1172 people.1

The Government announced in the 1988–89 Budget that ownership of Alice Springs, Mt Isa and Mackay airports would be transferred to the FAC. In addition, that the FAC would assume responsibility for the civil aviation facilities at Darwin, Townsville and Canberra Airports, also used by the RAAF, and that consideration would also be given to the transfer of Tennant Creek Airport to the FAC.2
Main Provisions

Clause 5 will provide that the FAC may lease land at a Federal airport from the Commonwealth, and enter into arrangements for the joint use of airports with the Defence Force.

Where the Minister declares a place to be a Federal Airport, the declaration may provide that the land will not vest in the FAC (clause 6).

References


For further information, if required, contact the Economics and Commerce Group.

6 January 1989

Bills Digest Service
Legislative Research Service

This Digest does not have any official legal status. Other sources should be consulted to determine the subsequent official status of the Bill.

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