AIR NAVIGATION AMENDMENT BILL 1980

Date Introduced: 20 March 1980
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. Ralph Hunt, Minister for Transport

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Air Navigation Act 1920 to confer powers in relation to civil aviation on the Northern Territory Government.

Background

The actual transfer of powers will be made by amendment to the Regulations under the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978 in the near future. This conferral is part of the program of devolution of State-type powers on the Northern Territory Government that commenced on 1 January 1978. Although the program was to have been completed by 1 July 1979 with the achievement of fully responsible self-government, there was agreement reached between both governments that civil aviation powers would not be conferred until the relevant Northern Territory authorities gained experience in this area and to allow the regional airline (Connair) subsidy to run its course; this subsidy will continue to 30 September 1980.

Consistent with State Government powers the Northern Territory Government will have power to issue licences on economic and public interest grounds. As the Commonwealth will retain control of matters relating to safety and operational issues and will only grant licences where an operator has established it can comply with the relevant criteria, both a Commonwealth and Territory licence will be required before intra-territory services could be provided.

Main Provisions

Clauses 3 and 4 amend sections 2A and 24 respectively so that in respect of the Act binding the Crown and the immunity of the Crown from prosecution, the Northern Territory will stand in its own right.

Clause 5 amends s.26 to stipulate that the Northern
Territory will be regarded as a State for the purposes of Commonwealth Regulations and laws of the Territory will be invalid to the extent of their inconsistency with the Regulations.

Clause 7 provides the Principal Act is amended, in certain formal ways, by the Schedule to the Bill.