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40 Station Road  
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Saturday, 6 March 2010.

Dear Tristan

As you will know I was the Chairman of the 1999/2000 committee known as the Senate Rural Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee which carried out the inquiry into Air Safety –BAE 146 Cabin Air Quality.

The Committee undertook an extremely thorough investigation lasting almost a year and based conclusions on both the written and oral evidence provided to the committee.

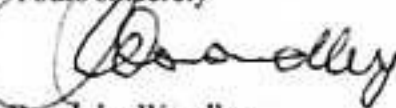
If the Committee had been made aware of all the evidence that existed at the time and known today, but which was withheld by BAE and Ansett; as Chairman I would have recommended that the Bae146 aircraft fleet be grounded until a solution could be found to safeguard the health and flight safety of the travelling public and aircrew. Such steps are taken within the aviation industry when a serious health and safety condition applies. For instance following the tragic Concorde crash in Paris aircraft engineering modifications needed to be made to the aircraft fuel tanks, modifications which cannot be done whilst the aircraft remains in service.

I note that in 2007 Senator O'Brien, also a member of the 1999/2000 Committee, advised the Australian Senate that agreements (tabled) between Ansett, BAe and the engine/APU manufacturers appeared to have been withheld from the courts and parliament. Senator O'Brien went on to state in his speech that 'money had been paid for silence'. The details of these payments are now a matter of public record.

I understand that a 2006 Swiss Air Accidents Investigation report into an incident onboard a BAe 146 RJ highlighted that the toxic effects of exposure to heated engine oils and their impact on flight safety were still occurring.

Clearly the need for bleed air free technologies or suitable filtration technologies on commercial aircraft remains the most logical solution to this ongoing serious health and flight safety problem.

Yours sincerely



Rev John Woodley

(Former Chair, Senate Committee on Rural, Regional Affairs & Transport, Australian Parliament)