



MEDIA RELEASE

RAAA CALLS FOR A FAIRER DEAL FOR REGIONAL OPERATORS

7 July 2014

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) today called for a better deal for regional operators with regard to taxes on aviation fuel.

Over \$300m is raised annually from levies on aviation fuel for domestic flights in Australia with around two thirds being for the carbon tax and one third funding for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). All international flights, including those by Qantas and Virgin Australia, are exempted.

RAAA CEO Paul Tyrrell stated that "The CASA fuel levy is an extremely unfair user pays system when you consider that CASA are responsible for all international airlines flying into Australia, Qantas and Virgin international operations, the airports and Airservices Australia, none of whom pay a cent".

"This unfair CASA fuel tax means that domestic operations are subsidising major international airlines to the tune of \$70m p.a. which is an unnecessary burden on domestic flights, particularly those operated by small regional airlines that are struggling to survive in the current climate" he added.

Regional operators are also required to contribute to the carbon tax while international flights do not, meaning that the government has forgone around \$265m p.a. in carbon tax revenue.

"It is incomprehensible that the international airlines, with their huge aircraft and fuel consumption, have not been required to contribute to the environment under the carbon tax while the smallest regional operator has been slugged" Paul Tyrrell said.

The RAAA noted that the Government had taken action to remove the carbon tax but called for a fairer deal for regional operators on CASA funding with the levy either being applied to all flights or being removed altogether and funding reverting to normal appropriations.

Media Enquiries:
Paul Tyrrell, CEO
Mob: 0438 114 372

Serving regional aviation, and through it, the people and businesses of regional Australia

Unit 11, 26-28 Winchcombe Court, Mitchell ACT 2911

ABN: 23 008 568 054 Telephone: 02 6162 0305 Facsimile: 02 6162 0308 Email: office@raaa.com.au Website: www.raaa.com.au