



Press Release
19 August 2010

RAAA Welcomes the Coalition's Commitment to Aviation

Just as Members of the Regional Aviation Association of Australia were losing hope that either of the major parties would release a transport policy before Saturday's Federal Election, the Liberal / National Coalition today released its plan to foster Australian aviation if it wins Government this weekend.

"The RAAA found it quite unbelievable that with only 48 hours to go, aviation transport issues had been ignored by the two major parties," Paul Tyrrell, RAAA CEO said today.

"Fortunately, our Members' concern was partially allayed with the release today of the Coalition's Transport Policy. However, we are still waiting for the Australian Labor Party's transport policy," Mr Tyrrell continued.

"The RAAA is encouraged by the Coalition's commitment to continue the vital En Route Charges Scheme for regional airline operators such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and their plans to revitalise the General Aviation Action Agenda cancelled by the Rudd / Gillard Government.

"Encouraging also is the Coalition's commitment to review tax arrangements concerning the purchase of new aircraft, task Austrade to promote Australia as a global leader in flight training and look to expand loan assistance for those undertaking flying training."

"Millions of Australians rely on air transport, particularly regional Australians, and the lack of discussion on this important issue has been of great concern not only to the RAAA, but also representatives in the rural and regional communities that rely on us," Mr Tyrrell said.

"General and regional aviation industries are essential parts of Australia's transport infrastructure in the 21st century. They have been ignored and left to deteriorate for too long. We need a government with a strong focus and commitment to address the real issues that the industry faces and ensure that that Australia is once again seen as a world-leader in all facets of aviation," Mr Tyrrell said.

"The Labor Party's silence on aviation issues is very discouraging and Australians everywhere, particularly those living in regional and remote areas, should be disappointed that aviation transport issues appear to be confined to areas east of the Blue Mountains.

"Regardless of who wins Saturday's Federal Election the RAAA will look forward to working with the incoming Government and Minister to represent the interests of regional aviation businesses and the communities that rely on them," Mr Tyrrell concluded.

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The RAAA was formed in 1980 to protect, represent and promote the combined interests of its regional airline members and regional aviation throughout Australia. Its Members operate in all States and Territories and include airlines, airports, engineering and flight training companies. RAAA Airline Members directly employ over 5,000 Australians, carry in excess of 2 million passengers annually and move over 23 million kgs of freight.

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

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