



**RAAA Media Release**

**Wednesday, 21 December 2016**

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) welcomes the announcement made by Minister Darren Chester that the future requirements for Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Services (ARFFS) are to be based on a safety risk assessment rather than simply the number of passengers per annum using an airport as has been the case for many years.

Commenting on the announcement RAAA CEO Mike Higgins said “Industry has always perceived a safety risk assessment as the best way of determining the requirement for ARFFS at an airport and the Minister is to be congratulated for having the foresight to make this decision which brings ARFFS establishment in line with modern safety philosophy and practice”.

The RAAA also welcomed changes to the disestablishment criteria for ARFFS and urged the Government to apply these to regional airports where activity has significantly reduced in recent years. This would help to ensure common levels of safety and to maintain sustainable air services to regional centres.

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

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