



MEDIA RELEASE

BRISBANE AIRPORT CORPORATION OFFER

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The offer by Brisbane Airport Corporation (BAC) to work with other airports to ease congestion at Brisbane has been greeted with scepticism by regional operators.

The encouragement by BAC's leaders for operators to use larger aircraft at Brisbane in order to maximise airport revenues is disingenuous given that the market should determine the size of aircraft for a particular route, not the airport owners.

Regional RPT, FIFO and charter have a strong presence at Brisbane airport and need to remain there. If a customer lives or works in Brisbane, that is their obvious destination or departure point. Flying regional customers in and out of the Sunshine or Gold Coast is not a viable alternative to Brisbane.

As operations at Brisbane Airport increase there will inevitably be pressure from BAC to have the smaller operators removed from the airport in order to maximise the airport's profit. This has been the case in Sydney for some time to the point where Federal Government legislation was enacted in order to protect the rights of regional residents to be able to fly into their capital city airport and not be forced to suffer the inconvenience of travelling to a secondary airport.

There is mixed message to industry in that BAC is planning a new FIFO/charter terminal. This contradicts the CEO's wish to assist such operations in moving elsewhere. Do they want the new business or not?

Brisbane is an expanding aviation market which will need to cater for a wider range of commercial operations over the medium term. The RAAA and its members stand ready to work with BAC to ensure that regional operators have a long-term and reasonable access to Brisbane Airport.

"Regional aviation including FIFO is making a large contribution to the QLD and national economy", said Jeff Boyd, RAAA Chairman.

He added "The Brisbane regional operations are generating further employment and wealth for Brisbane based workers and their families. It is becoming obvious that the second runway will be needed sooner rather than later. We hope BAC sees regional operators as their business partners, and not an irritation. This is simply the wrong message to send to business and regional communities".

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