



9 March 2011

Mr Jason Harfield  
GM Air Traffic Control  
Airservices Australia  
GPO Box 367  
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear Jason,

## **ENHANCED ATS AND SURVEILLANCE ARRANGEMENTS AT REGIONAL AIRPORTS**

### **The RAAA and its Members**

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) was formed in 1980 as the Regional Airlines Association of Australia to protect, represent and promote the combined interests of its regional airline members and regional aviation throughout Australia.

The Association changed its name in July 2001 to the Regional Aviation Association of Australia and widened its charter to include a range of membership, including regional airlines, charter and aerial work operators, and the businesses that support them.

The RAAA has 27 Ordinary Members (AOC holders) and 55 Associate/Affiliate Members. The RAAA's AOC members directly employ over 5,000 Australians, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA's AOC members jointly turnover more than \$1b, carry well in excess of 2 million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight. Annex A lists the Ordinary Members of the RAAA.

RAAA members operate in all States and Territories and include airlines, airports, engineering and flight training companies, finance and insurance companies and government entities. Many of RAAA's members operate successful and growing businesses providing employment and economic sustainability within regional areas.

Some examples of RAAA members' presence in regional Australia is the REX hub in Wagga Wagga, SkyWest in WA, Sharp Aviation in Hamilton, Kimberley Aviation at Broome, Airnorth, Chartair and Vincent Aviation Northern Territory networks, West Wing Aviation in Mt Isa and Skytrans operations from Cairns, to name a few.

*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](mailto:office@raaa.com.au) Website: [www.raaa.com.au](http://www.raaa.com.au)

## RAAA Charter

The RAAA's Charter is to promote a safe and viable regional aviation industry. To meet this goal the RAAA:

- ➔ promotes the regional aviation industry and its benefits to Australian transport, tourism and the economy among government and regulatory policy makers;
- ➔ lobbies on behalf of the regional aviation industry and its members;
- ➔ contributes to government and regulatory authority policy processes and formulation to enable its members to have input into policies and decisions that may affect their businesses;
- ➔ encourages high standards of professional conduct by its members; and
- ➔ provides a forum for formal and informal professional development and information sharing.

The RAAA provides wide representation for the regional aviation industry by direct lobbying of Ministers and senior officials, through parliamentary submissions, personal contact and by ongoing, active participation in a number of consultative forums.

## ENHANCED ATS AND SURVEILLANCE ARRANGEMENTS AT REGIONAL AIRPORTS

The RAAA wishes to support the Rex position on the implementation plan to satisfy Ministerial Direction 2004-4.

There has been considerable progress in airspace design since the Directive. The Office of Airspace Regulation is doing a sound job with its aeronautical risk assessments. The RAAA would wish to see this assessment process applied to the regional airports mentioned in the Direction.

It would be timely to assess fully where regional Class D towers could safely use Class E or procedural Class C above, instead of an expensive and possibly unnecessary Class C with surveillance.

If Ministerial Direction 2004-4 is no longer the best airspace or surveillance solution for the circumstances, it is unreasonable to inflict added cost on a regional aviation industry that cannot tolerate any more government imposed cost burdens.

If the RAAA can be of any further assistance in this matter please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards



Paul Tyrrell  
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Greg Russell, CEO Airservices Australia

# Annex A: RAAA Ordinary Members

