

EMBARGOED TIL 11AM THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2016

THE AUSTRALIAN AVIATION ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM
New Aviation Policies to Drive Jobs and Growth

28 April 2016

The Australian Aviation Associations' Forum which represents a significant sector of Australian aviation, has launched a comprehensive package of policies aimed at establishing a new partnership between Industry and Government that focuses on job creation, industry growth and a major overhaul of aviation structures.

Chair of the Forum, Mr Greg Russell, said that the policy provides a unique opportunity for Government and industry to take a more mature approach to fostering an industry that is capable of significant jobs growth.

"These policies represent a milestone opportunity for aviation policy in Australia. A new approach to aviation challenges through a Government/Industry partnership would make Australia into a regional aviation leader and drive growth and opportunities across the nation. These policies offer real pathways to improved services, savings for the taxpayer and more effective regulation. It is estimated that over \$2.2 billion in benefits to Government, industry and society would be realised from the adoption of these policies."

The full 60-page policy and summary is available from TAAAF participants' websites.

The centrepiece of the policy is the privatisation of Airservices Australia along the very successful Canadian not-for-profit model and the linked creation of an Aviation Future Fund focussed on improved training pathways, export opportunities and international harmonisation.

Airservices' current model is no longer capable of effectively responding to emerging aviation opportunities or the need for greater efficiency. Forum policies would establish a new structure that has been proven to be more effective for the management of safety and cost effective service delivery.

The policy calls for the realignment of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority with the modern aviation environment in order to drive effective policy implementation and achieve a performance based regulatory system.

A key initiative is a major modernisation of the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*, which has not been reviewed in nearly 30 years. A priority is to ensure Australian aviation regulations are better aligned with international standards to facilitate exports and reduce unnecessary costs and delays, including the recognition of Australian qualifications by other aviation states, especially in the emerging aviation powerhouses of China and India.

The Forum strategy sees a national aviation policy based on a Government/Industry partnership driving enhanced coordination, more efficient regulation, greater policy alignment, the prioritisation of investment and a significant new investment in capability.

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