

12 August 2010

General Aviation Rescue Plan

Leading Australian general aviation Associations have launched a General Aviation Rescue Plan to highlight the lack of Government imagine and vision for the sector.

The AAAA, ABAA, AMROBA, AOPA, OAOA, RAAA and RFACA have joined forces to show what could be done for a sector that has great potential but which has been ignored by government policy makers.

Ten Point GA Rescue Package

1. Government must engage better with industry by establishing a Ministerial forum with leading industry Associations.
2. Aviation is vital infrastructure and should be given a higher policy and funding priority, both through tax reform and government programs.
3. The aviation skills shortage should be addressed through introduction of HECS for pilots and engineers.
4. Government must consider increased support for local GA airports that are struggling to keep up with increasing costs of maintenance and compliance and threats from developers.
5. The security requirements for GA aircraft and pilots should be simplified to be in line with US practice.
6. CASA's Act must be changed to include fostering and promoting aviation.
7. CASA should be directed to establish a high level joint task force to work with industry on improving efficiency and effectiveness and reducing cost.
8. CASA should be directed by Government to substantially simplify and reduce its regulatory burden on GA, especially in the areas of drug and alcohol management plans, reporting, AOC / entry control, and through regulatory reform.
9. CASA should be directed by Government to work cooperatively with industry Associations to develop recognised Codes of Practice that will support aviation safety while reducing compliance costs, in line with ICAO recommended practice.
10. CASA should be directed to abandon its current European based approach to regulatory reform for GA, especially maintenance regulation, and adopt a model based on the US FAA system of simple regulations for simple operations.

Further comment is available from the Association contacts listed below.

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