

Airlines welcome Government's plan for aviation sector to thrive again

Airlines have today welcomed the announcement of the Aviation Recovery Framework which outlines the Federal Government's key priorities for the sector as it recovers from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commenting on the [Deputy Prime Minister's announcement](#), Airlines for Australia & New Zealand (A4ANZ) Chairman, Professor Graeme Samuel AC, said that the strategic priorities outlined in the framework provided an important acknowledgement of the need to support the aviation sector's recovery from COVID-19 to ensure it remains strong and competitive into the future, through effective, forward-looking policy settings. In particular, welcoming the Government's commitment to:

- establish a Strategic Aviation Advisory Forum to advise Government on the sector's recovery, as well as issues affecting the industry moving forward;
- continue to provide targeted support for essential air access in regional and remote areas to connect regional communities; and
- reform of regulation, ensuring the sector has the right policy and regulatory settings to enable all participants in the aviation ecosystem to thrive.

Professor Samuel said, "There is good reason for optimism as we look ahead, but the road to recovery has already shown itself to be a bumpy one, with significant setbacks caused not only by the arrival of new COVID-19 variants but by the imposition of sudden and inconsistent border controls, which create further uncertainty and hesitancy."

"It is critical that – with Australia now one of the most vaccinated countries in the world – domestic restrictions and border controls remain sensible and proportionate, to maintain connectivity, to continue to support the recovery of other sectors such as tourism, and boost Australia's overall economic recovery."

A4ANZ CEO, Dr Alison Roberts said, "The experience and uncertainty of the past two years have reinforced the need for support to be flexible and responsive to changing conditions."

"As the Deputy Prime Minister noted, support is more than the necessary financial measures that have helped the aviation sector through the worst of the pandemic. It is about ensuring that the right policy settings are in place across the whole aviation ecosystem, to enable us to face the significant challenges that we still have ahead of us."

"History has shown that airlines do not just bounce back from global economic events, and the scale of losses from COVID-19 dwarfs everything that has come before. There has never been a more important time to get the policy settings right, and we welcome the Government's commitment to ensure that our aviation regulatory frameworks are fit-for-purpose."

"We look forward to working with the Government and other key stakeholders through the implementation of this framework, and to ensuring that Australians continue to have access to safe and affordable air travel into the future."

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