

Airlines welcome Government focus on regional aviation

Airlines for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ) welcomes the Government's commitment to a strong aviation sector connecting remote and regional Australia, following the Deputy Prime Minister's [announcement of the development of a comprehensive Regional Aviation Policy statement](#).

Commenting on the announcement by the Hon. Michael McCormack MP, A4ANZ Chairman Professor Graeme Samuel AC, said, "We know how important a strong and sustainable aviation sector is for regional, rural, and remote Australia – with [recent analysis](#) showing the economic contribution of the air transport industry to regional Australia totalling \$2.3 billion annually, and supporting 15,000 full time equivalent jobs."

"There are almost 25 million passenger movements through regional airports each year. Airlines play a vital role in providing local residents access to essential social, medical, business, financial and educational services, as well as moving important freight; and in encouraging growth in tourism and business."

A4ANZ CEO Dr Alison Roberts said, "Airlines recognise the importance of ensuring the vitality and prosperity of regional communities, and our members have continued to demonstrate this through delivering discounted airfares for regional Australia, millions of dollars in drought and flood relief, community-based grants, and investment in pilot academies in regional towns."

"In many regional centres, the existence of air services reduces isolation from capital cities and the rest of the world. But these benefits are contingent on the extent to which airlines can remain commercially viable on regional routes, particularly with the upcoming impact of mandated security changes. [Australia has seen 18 regional airlines go into administration in the past fifteen years](#); and as we heard yesterday at the Regional Aviation Association of Australia's convention, commercial viability is a significant and ongoing challenge for regional airlines."

Welcoming the Government's commitment to canvass and listen to stakeholder views, Dr Roberts said, "We look forward to the release of the Issues Paper, and to working collaboratively with the Government and other industry stakeholders on the development of a comprehensive, practical, and sustainable Regional Aviation Policy."

About A4ANZ

Airlines for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ) is an industry group established as a voice to represent airlines based in Australia and New Zealand. Member-funded and representing international, domestic, regional, full service and low cost carriers, A4ANZ advocates on key public policy issues that impact airline operations such as efficient access to infrastructure, in the interests of our passengers, staff and shareholders.

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Please direct any airline-specific media enquiries to the relevant airline media teams.