

MEDIA RELEASE



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RAAA welcomes Government focus on regional aviation

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) has welcomed the release of the Federal Government's "Aviation Recovery Framework" which includes more financial support for regional and remote areas of Australia.

RAAA CEO Steven Campbell we are not out of Covid yet and regional areas of Australia still need that vital government support to ensure their services will remain viable, so we welcome further funding of the essential Regional Airline Network Support program (RANS), Remote Airstrip Upgrades (\$15m) and the Remote Air Services Scheme (\$6.6m).

"Whilst many of the programs in the framework are already on the way, we look forward to working with government officials on areas such as revitalising General Aviation and aviation skills shortages in the regions." Mr Campbell said.

"Our organisations are struggling to recruit or train new engineers in our regional areas, so it is important for the government to assist the aviation industry in providing incentives for people to work in remote parts of Australia and improve accessibility to training resources.

"We have already had numerous forums and reviews into our industry, there are also many representative organisations such as ours that the government can utilise, so we hope that the government will not waste any time in forming their Strategic Aviation Advisory Forum, we cannot afford to delay the work needed to be done to ensure supply of resources to regional Australia.

"Support to help introduce aircraft surveillance equipment is also welcomed, whilst most of our members would already have this equipment installed due to previous requirements, the airspace system needs as many aircraft equipped as possible to ensure the system works as intended.

"With the government's policy of net-zero by 2050, the RAAA are also keen to understand how aviation will be affected and what government policies and support will be in place to ensure we reach that target."

The RAAA membership welcomes this focus on aviation recovery, there is much work to be done next year and we look forward to working with the government collaboratively to ensure these initiatives turn into actions as soon as possible.

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The RAAA represents aviation across Australia. It has over 100 members and its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) holding members directly employ over 3000 Australians, many in regional areas. On an annual basis, the RAAA's AOC members jointly turn over more than \$1.5 billion, carry well in excess of 2 million passengers and move over 23 million kilograms of freight. Our Regional Airport members also provide and manage critical infrastructure across Australian.

Serving regional aviation, and through it, the people and businesses of regional Australia
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