



**Hon Andrew Giles MP**  
**Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs**

Ref No: MC22-027533

The Hon Catherine King MP  
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and  
Local Government  
Federal Member for Ballarat  
PO Box 719  
BALLARAT VIC 3353

Dear Minister *Catherine,*

Thank you for your representation of 25 June 2022 on behalf of Mr Steven Campbell, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Aviation Association of Australia, concerning skilled visa processing times for aviation engineers and including aviation engineers on the Priority Migration Skilled Occupation List (PMSOL).

As you know, reducing the number of on-hand visa applications and reducing visa processing times is a priority for the Australian Government. The Department of Home Affairs is drawing flexibly on its global network of visa officers to process applications in line with the Government's priority to support economic recovery and address skills shortages. To further assist in the reduction of on-hand visa applications, the Department is developing a surge capacity to boost visa processing capacity. This will fast-track and bolster Australia's economic recovery – supporting mobility for international workers and opportunities for Australian industry, including in the aviation sector.

The Department processes visa applications in line with priorities set through Ministerial Directions made under the *Migration Act 1958*. For example, within the Temporary Skill Shortage visa program, highest priority is currently given to those applications in relation to occupations on the PMSOL.

The PMSOL was introduced as a temporary measure to identify occupations considered to be critical for the COVID-19 response and recovery of the Australian economy. I am currently reviewing these priorities and PMSOL to ensure they support improved visa processing times.

Work underway to reduce visa processing times should make an immediate difference to employers in the aviation sector.

Thank you for bringing Mr Campbell's concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'A', 'S', and 'C' in a stylized, cursive font.

ANDREW GILES

27/2 / 2022