



26 July 2021

The Hon Barnaby Joyce MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Via email: minister.joyce@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Deputy Prime Minister

Urgent support needed for aviation businesses

On behalf of the members of the Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) I am writing to you in your capacity as the Minister responsible for aviation in Australia, to seek urgent financial assistance to aviation organisations affected by the current lockdowns and travel restrictions across Australia. Aviation businesses throughout our nation and in particular NSW, are suffering incredible losses and if current forecasts are accurate on how long these restrictions will remain in place, may not be sustainable beyond the next month. This is of great concern for small regional centres who may end up with reduced or no air services beyond these lockdowns.

The RAAA is calling on the Federal Government to provide urgent financial assistance for aviation businesses affected by current and future lockdowns along the lines that our international airlines have received through the International Aviation Support (IAS) scheme. Aviation workers are highly trained and require ongoing recency and training requirements to maintain safe operations. It is not just a simple matter to lay-off a highly skilled worker and expect them to be ready to return to work once restrictions are lifted. This is especially the case for pilots who have very strict recency requirements. Assistance is urgently needed to sustain these businesses and to ensure that our regional communities will continue to have essential aviation services providing vital links with the major cities. This support is needed at all levels of aviation, not just the airlines, our general aviation companies who are a vital part of the aviation eco-system must not be forgotten.

We would also like to see the current programs such as DANS/RANS and domestic airport security cost support, which are due to run out at the end of September be extended in line with the government's four-phase plan to recovery. Until we can be assured that further lockdowns and travel restrictions will not occur, these vital support programs must continue until confidence is restored for the travelling public.

With our colleagues at Airlines for Australia and New Zealand (A4ANZ), we would like to urgently arrange a meeting with you to discuss financial assistance and support for the aviation industry and the extension of current programs as soon as possible.

Best regards,

Steven Campbell

Chief Executive Officer
Regional Aviation Association of Australia
Unit 3, 10 Kennedy St, Kingston, ACT, 2604
T: 02 6162 0305, M: 0419 702 802, E: ceo@raaa.com.au, W: www.raaa.com.au

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