



21 March 2023

RAAA joins up with Regional Australia Institute on Regionalisation Ambition

The Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) is proud to announce today that it is joining forces with many other leading organisations to champion regional Australia. The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) has today launched its National Alliance for Regionalisation bringing together over 30 CEOs from peak bodies across the nation.

Established by the Regional Australia Institute (RAI), CEO Liz Ritchie says this new Alliance is the first of its kind in this country, spanning business, health, education, infrastructure and environment. It aims to better position the regions to reach their potential.

“It’s no secret regional kids are still behind their metro-counterparts at school. Employers are struggling to get staff – yet migration levels are significantly lower in regions. Towns are crying out for doctors, but kids in the country are less likely to finish high school,” Liz Ritchie said.

“Despite these challenges, regional Australia remains the engine room of our national economy – but it’s not firing on all cylinders.

“Today’s launch marks a significant milestone for the 9 million people living in our regions. This powerful cohort of leading peak bodies and for-purpose organisation will work to help bring the RAI’s Regionalisation Ambition 2032 to life,” Liz Ritchie said.

RAAA CEO Steven Campbell has welcomed the initiative and hopes to see benefits flow through to the regional aviation industry who are experiencing critical skills shortages.

“It’s no use hoping people will just move to the regions, we need better housing, education, health care and of course air services for vital connectivity. With congestion in the cities just getting worst each year and house prices souring we need initiatives like this one from the RAI to focus government on making decisions today to alleviate the strain on our cities tomorrow, Mr Campbell said.

In a recent report from our counterparts in the US (Regional Airlines Association) on the effects of pilot shortages for regional air services it was stated:

Already, 324 airports have lost, on average, a third of their air service. The smallest airports have fared the worst. Fourteen airports have lost all air service. More than 50 airports have lost more than half of their air service.

“This is just around the corner for us here in Australia which is being exacerbated by a critical shortage in aircraft maintenance engineers.

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“We can’t just expect people to move to the regions, so I am pleased that the private sector is doing its bit to push this agenda to the top of the priority list for the current government.

“I am looking forward to playing our part with the many other peak bodies who have put their hands up for this cause and I applaud the RAI and its CEO Ms Liz Ritchie on their initiative”, Mr Campbell stated.

“Planning for a stronger Australia means planning for a prosperous, inclusive and resilient regional Australia and I wish to thank all organisations involved today for taking a seat at this historic table,” Liz Ritchie concluded.

For further information about the National Alliance for Regionalisation, go to www.rebalancethenation.com.au
The Regionalisation Ambition 2032 was launched at the RAI Summit in Canberra in September 2022.

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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 2,500 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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- AHURI**
- Australian Rural Leadership Foundation**
- BCA** Business Council of Australia
- COSBOA COUNCIL OF SMALL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS AUSTRALIA**
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