

MEDIA ADVISORY



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Rob Walker to become new CEO at RAAA

Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) Chair Mr Mal Sharp has announced today the appointment of Mr Rob Walker as the new Chief Executive Officer of the RAAA. Mr Walker will take over from Mr Steve Campbell who finishes up on the 7th of February.

Mr Sharp stated that Rob's extensive experience in the aviation portfolio made him the ideal choice to take over from Steve.

"Rob was a standout candidate, and it is great to be able to continue the positive momentum we have had under Steve's leadership for the last three years. Rob has a great grasp of the issues the aviation industry is facing today and the challenges ahead, Mr Sharp said.

"Many of our members will be familiar with Rob from his work at the Civil Aviation Safety Authority and Airservices Australia and have appreciated his efforts in improving our regulator's relationship with the industry.

"With our first Convention in five years just around the corner, we are very confident that Rob has the necessary experience and capability to ensure the RAAA remains the preeminent aviation association in Australia, Mr Sharp said.

Outgoing CEO Steve Campbell was also thrilled with the appointment stating that he could not have wished for a better candidate to take over such an important aviation role.

"I've known Rob for a long time, and I know that he has what it takes to ensure the RAAA continues to be seen as a responsible and professional organisation that government can confidently work with, Mr Campbell said.

"Rob has a great reputation amongst our members already as someone who understands what the industry is going through as well as the government framework we are working within. He is well positioned to continue RAAA's role in working with government to shape policy." Mr Campbell said.

Rob Walker is also excited about the new role.

"I have enjoyed many years in aviation government agencies and the opportunities to work closely with many in industry. The RAAA is a vital advocacy organisation for regional aviation to ensure that the voice of regional Australian businesses are heard in Canberra, Mr Walker stated.

"I have seen firsthand how the aviation industry is feeling the pinch on skills shortages and how important good regulations are in finding the right balance between safety and the costs of running an aviation business.

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“As the incoming CEO of the RAAA I look forward to continuing the work that Steve has done in the last few years in building a stronger RAAA and I am also excited to see how I can have a positive impact on where the Association moves into the future.

“The RAAA family has enjoyed many networking events over the last few years with the regional roadshow series and I look forward to joining them again after the Convention in mid-March.

“The Convention is such an important event for the RAAA and its members. We have a great line-up of speakers and topics that are very relevant to today’s aviation industry. The expo component will also give service providers a great opportunity to showcase their products to the industry and to network with important aviation leaders”, Mr Walker said.

Mr Sharp finished by saying that it was vitally important that the RAAA had a smooth transition and Rob is the ideal person to take the baton and run with it.

The RAAA will farewell Steve at an event at the Hyatt at Essendon Fields on the 7th, providing a great opportunity for members to also welcome Rob. Steve is heading to CASA to take up the position of Executive Manager of the National Operations and Standards division, commencing on the 19th of February.

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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.