



THE GLIDING FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

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30 June 2014

The Hon Warren Truss MP
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure and regional Development
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
GPO Box 594
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

RE: COMMENT CONCERNING THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF AVIATION SAFETY REGULATION REVIEW

Dear Minister Truss,

The Gliding Federation of Australia Incorporated (GFA) supports the findings and recommendations of the Aviation Safety Regulation Review Panel.

In particular, GFA believes that the need for a just and non-adversarial relationship between Industry and the Regulator is a fundamental pre-requisite to successful risk based safety outcomes. GFA firmly believes that risk management effort and performance based safety outcomes must be proportionate to evident risk to ensure available resources can be focussed for maximum effect and benefit.

Because of the singular context of Australia's Aviation Act focusing on aviation safety, GFA believes there are three important aspects missing from the Panel's findings.

Importantly, concern and recognition for the broader well being and success of the Industry must exist for optimal Aviation Industry outcomes rather than the mostly "Safety at any cost" approach of recent times.

Furthermore, meaningful accident investigation is most important. From every tragedy there must be something learned to avoid a repeat in the future and another statistic. GFA therefore requests that the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) investigates all glider related accidents resulting in injury/death by incorporating the expertise and resources of the GFA to do so. In so doing, precious ATSB resources are cost effectively and efficiently conserved and value based findings are assured within the protective Indemnity umbrella of ATSB statutes.

GFA recommends that the Minister:

- Implements a new Departmental agency tasked to uphold the best interests of a thriving Aviation industry spanning all sectors and which has the vision and resources to ensure Australia has the Aviation Industry it so desperately needs as part of its National interest in keeping Productivity Commission recommendations.

- Ensures the aviation safety Regulator demonstrates full cost-benefit justification prior to the implementation of all Industry safety related compliance Regulation/measures; old and new.
- The Minister requires the ATSB to utilise GFA accident investigation resources on an agreed basis for gliding incidents involving injury/death.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 
or by email vp@glidingaustralia.org.

Yours truly,



for and on behalf of

The Gliding Federation of Australia Incorporated

John A Summers

Vice-President