Australia and Global Aviation

Continuing our long tradition of representation on the governing Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Australia was re-elected as an ICAO Council Member in September 2013.

Australia makes a significant contribution to international civil aviation:

- Australia manages 11% of the world's airspace.
- More than 30 million people travelled on air services to and from Australia and 57 million within Australia during 2012–13.
- More than 880,000 tonnes of freight was carried on international flights in 2012–13.
- There are 8 major international airports in Australia with over 50 international scheduled airlines operating services to/from Australia.
- Australia has air services agreements/ arrangements with 86 countries/economies.
- Australia has established independent agencies to undertake safety regulation, air traffic management and accident investigation.

Aviation Policy in Australia

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that Australia has a safe, competitive and productive aviation sector. Key government initiatives include:

- focusing on better utilisation of Australian airspace;
- recognising the importance of Australian airports to the economy;
- revitalising the General Aviation Action Agenda;
- promoting aviation liberalisation;
- enhancing aviation skill, training and development;
- establishing a high level review of aviation safety regulation in Australia; and
- ensuring that aviation security measures are risk based.

Engagement with ICAO

Australia has a long history of active participation in ICAO towards setting global standards and guidance for civil aviation safety, security, efficiency and environmental sustainability.

Australia has been a member of ICAO's governing Council since its formation in 1947, with consistent election to Part 1 – *States of Chief Importance in Air Transport.* In addition to Council representation, Australia is a member of the Air Navigation Commission and maintains an office at the ICAO headquarters in Montreal, Canada.

Australia actively participates in and makes a significant technical and leadership contribution to ICAO's major work. Australia is involved in more than 60 ICAO committees, panels and study groups including the panels dealing with dangerous goods, air transport regulation, aerodromes, air traffic management requirements and performance, separation and safety, and flight recorder matters.

International Cooperation

Australia continues to work closely with our neighbours and aviation partners to enhance the safety and security of civil aviation.

We provide assistance on transport safety and security issues to a number of states in our region including Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and a range of Pacific Islands. Our cooperative efforts include technical support, training, provision of personnel and air traffic management services.

Safety

Our major airlines have an enviable safety record; since 1969 there have been no fatal accidents involving civilian high-capacity aircraft (more than 38 seats) in Australia.

Australia has a comprehensive and robust aviation safety framework, with highly regarded safety management and regulatory approaches. Central to this are the Government's two key aviation safety agencies:

- the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, which is responsible for regulating and overseeing civil aviation safety; and
- the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, which undertakes independent investigation, analysis and reporting on transport safety matters.

In April 2012, Australia released its second Aviation State Safety Program which set out Australia's regulatory framework and safety systems for managing Australia's aviation safety performance in accordance with ICAO's requirements.

Security

Australia is committed to the alignment of aviation security regulatory requirements with international practice while remaining flexible to the future challenges confronting the aviation industry. As part of this commitment Australia is not only enhancing domestic security arrangements but also expanding its international engagement and capacity building activities in the region.

Australia is an active member of the ICAO Aviation Security Panel. Australia supports the move towards a Continuous Monitoring Approach for the Universal Security Audit Programme to enhance global aviation security. Australia introduced liquids, aerosols and gels screening at transit screening points in Australia on 1 July 2012 and Australia will continue to work collaboratively with our international partners to achieve further harmonisation of aviation security measures.

Environment

Australia is engaged in ICAO to identify practical and proportionate measures to address aviation's contribution to climate change and manage its impacts on the environment. Australia is an active member of ICAO's Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection. At the 38th ICAO Assembly in October 2013, Australia reaffirmed its support to work towards ICAO's global aspirational environmental goals through practical measures such as the development of a new CO_2 standard for aircraft.

Australia's air navigation service provider, Airservices Australia, has implemented a range of fuel efficiency improvement measures such as flexible flight tracks, improved air traffic control sequencing, continuous descent approaches and better management of aircraft on the ground. Airservices Australia is working with air navigation service providers in the United States, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore and Thailand to improve efficiencies on key Asian and trans-Pacific routes through the Asia and Pacific Initiative to Reduce Emissions (ASPIRE).

Australia has adopted ICAO's Balanced Approach to managing aircraft noise around airports and endorsed ICAO's latest Chapter 14 noise standard for quieter, new large civil aircraft types from 2017.

Air Traffic Management

Australia is planning for a generational change of its core operational air traffic management system through the harmonisation of civil and military systems. Airservices Australia and Australia's Department of Defence are collaborating to deliver a single national platform which will provide improved safety benefits, seamless systems compatibility and greater coordination and cooperation of airspace management. Australia continues to significantly invest in air traffic management infrastructure with more than $900 million invested over five years from 2010 on upgrading and modernising Australia's infrastructure, services and facilities.

Additional links

- www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation
- www.casa.gov.au
- www.airservicesaustralia.com
- www.atsb.gov.au