

**Submission to the independent aviation safety regulation review panel:**

Name: \_\_\_\_ Philip Ronald Eldridge \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Glider pilot, Level NGS Instructor and a member of the GFA.

I firmly believe that a thriving aviation sector that includes strong Sport aviation engagement is critical for Australia's future. Australia has been at the forefront in so many aviation related developments over the years as a result of this strong involvement, and this should be fostered to continue.

I consider that Core messages for the panel to consider in this review include:

- That Part 149 Approved Organisations model is the best way forward, and should be pursued promptly to finalisation.
- Funding and the method of fair audit of the GFA require ongoing consultation, and a professional approach towards an organisation which has governed Gliding successfully since 1949.
- GFA is held in high regard by aviation generally and is best placed to build upon its existing administration and oversight of gliding in Australia, in cooperation with CASA.
- The punitive, authoritarian and disrespectful attitude currently demonstrated by the regulator is contrary to the aims of a vibrant, successful, diverse and thriving aviation sector. This has evolved to a point where officers of the regulator are widely held in contempt by aviation personnel for the negative and unhelpful methods they have adopted.
- A Ministerial Policy is urgently needed, directing CASA to adopt a core mission to support and promote all aviation bodies in Australia and to make resources available for the betterment of systems, standards, education and operations. The policy needs to include that CASA will act independently and will not conform blindly to overseas bodies such as EASA. Australian input will be the guiding factor in the development of all its rule making and policy development practices.
- The governance of Gliding in Australia should be best addressed by GFA. Gliding in Australia is not the same as powered or other forms of flying, and the current rules for these sports do not and should not, be applied to Glider operations. Gliding is unlike most other flying operations and should be left to GFA to administer in an unfettered manner.

Thank you for your consideration and appreciation of the importance of the Gliding Federation of Australia in the sport and recreational aviation sector.

*Philip Eldridge*

*RAAF RICHMOND GLIDING CLUB*

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