

A Livery Company of the City of London



# The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators Australian Region Incorporated

Patron: HRH The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh KG KT  
Grand Master: HRH The Prince Andrew, Duke of York KG GCVO

The Hon. Warren Truss MP  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**Re: AVIATION SAFETY REGULATION REVIEW**

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
ASRR@infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Minister,

The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators is concerned with every technical aspect of flying, from safety to navigational aids, from airport facilities to training methods and in particular with new developments in aircraft and their handling. It is a unique organisation, as its membership is restricted to qualified pilots and navigators and therefore it can truly claim to bring together the views and ideas of people who control aircraft in the air. Perhaps the most important function of the Guild is to help set and maintain standards of conduct among flying people.

The Guild is NOT a lobby or pressure group and it does not function in the same way as many other aviation related associations. However that does not mean that it will never offer considered advice if it thinks it necessary, and of course it is always ready to offer an opinion if asked for.

For many members the particular strength and attraction of the Guild is the diverse spread of experience and interests of its members, together with an entirely non-political outlook and a constitution which forbids it from engaging in trade union activity.

The Guild was established in London in 1929 by a small group of commercial pilots who were virtually responsible for ensuring that their successors enjoyed a professional status, and one of the Guild's objectives has been to foster and improve that standing. From the beginning the Guild was modelled on the lines of the old City of London Guilds and Livery Companies and its constitution and by-laws reflect that foundation, although its activities and work is very much contemporary.

The Australian Region of the Guild is an independent incorporated association with the same aims and interests of the parent body in London and comprises some 220 active members. The majority of our Australian members are or have been professional pilot licence holders both military and civil but we also have many private licence holders. Our members operate aircraft not only in airlines and all branches of the armed forces but also in every area of general aviation, sporting aviation and private flying. The aircraft flown range from large civil transport aircraft, supersonic military aircraft through to single and multi- engine fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, training aircraft, recreational, sport and experimental aircraft, gliders and balloons. As such the Guild members are vitally concerned with the Objectives and Outcomes of this review and a number of our members have made independent submissions to the review.

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The issues that Guild members are concerned about with respect to Civil Aviation safety in Australia include:

- The lack of trust and respect between the industry and the regulator [primarily CASA]
- A concern for the 'culture' in the aviation industry in Australia which is considerably different from that in many other countries and which, to some extent, arises from the feeling of being sidelined since there is no dedicated government 'Department of Aviation'.
- The 'one size fits all' attitude particularly with respect to General Aviation where major operators such as the RFDS and the Australian Customs Aviation Service is lumped together with small private operators and small flying training schools.
- The fact that the aviation regulations are written in Australia by Lawyers and are hard to understand by the aviation industry.
- That 'Guidance' material and 'Advisory Circulars' often appear to be enforced more as regulations than 'advice'.
- The apparent 'micro-management' attitude of CASA in the affairs of professional industry organisations.

There are also many other issues that Guild members are concerned about.

Noting that the Guild has a varied and widely experienced body of individuals among its members and that the organisation itself is not aligned with any one particular issue we offer our services to the review and yourself and would be most honoured to assist the review Committee further.

This may be our last letter to you using the Guild letterhead. The Guild in London has been granted a Royal Charter by the Queen and will unveil a change of name from "Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators" to "Honourable Company of Air Pilots" on 19 February 2014.

The Council of the Australian Region has also agreed to change its name accordingly to "Honourable Company of Air Pilots, Australia Incorporated". Please note there is an embargo on public disclosure of the new name until 19 February 2014.

Yours sincerely



Harold Walton  
Chairman  
Australian Region  
The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators  
30 January 2014