

Greg Bastin

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Dear Sir,

In response to the submissions to the Aviation Green Paper please find below my submission.

I hold an Australian ATPL and have been flying since 1976. Since this time I have seen many changes in the industry some for the better and some to the detriment of General Aviation.

There are many issues that affect General Aviation some of these include the privatisation of what were once Government owned airports. The leases to these have in many cases given to companies that have no interest in General Aviation they are purely driven by maximising profits often at the expense of General Aviation. Costs incurred by General Aviation have been driven up in part by these sort of (in my opinion) very poor Government decisions. Government seems to have little or no interest in the outcome of this decision made many years ago. With regards my home base Moorabbin Airport just take a look at the beautiful buildings that have been built by the lease holders then look at the state of the hangars on the airport NO money has been spent on them since the airport was taken over. I don't believe this was the original intention of the act, however very few politicians have ever bothered to visit the airport to see what is really going on. They read the owners masterplan which quite frankly is a document full of spin. If any members of parliament bothered to spend just a few hours speaking to tenants they would quickly realise there is a real problem here.

Many of the businesses simply do not invest as they have NO security of tenure. Very few apprentices are being trained for this reason and this is leading to a situation when the current crop of aircraft engineers retire there will not be the people to replace them. This will have dire consequences for the General Aviation industry at large.

Flying schools:

The number at Moorabbin has simply dwindled over the last 20 years the airport used to be a hive of activity there were literally dozens of flying schools on the airport the cost of operating a business on Moorabbin has just got to the point that in a lot of cases it is simply not worth operating there.

The regulator:

We seem to have a regulator that is more interested in paperwork than practical things one person I spoke to about this once said maybe we should see if the American FAA would run our aviation industry as they could do it cheaper and better than our current bureaucracy.

I feel we would be better served as an industry if Aviation was removed from the Department of Infrastructure and a separate Department of Aviation was created to look after all things Aviation the way it used to be. The Aviation industry is really specialised and only a Department that is purely aviation focused can help make the industry prosper. In the US aviation is a huge contributor to national GDP because unlike here it is nurtured and fostered. We have the ability to be innovators but the current bureaucracy makes it all too difficult. I could tell the story about a gentleman who created an ADSB box that could have been fitted to all Australian aircraft for under \$1000 15 years ago he ran into so many issues with the bureaucracy he gave up. I am sure there are many examples like this.

Australia is an enormous country that was at the forefront of Aviation in the 1920's and 1930's what happened why don't we build aircraft here are we too dumb or are the regulations here so difficult that people just give up. Aviation needs to be fostered however at the moment I feel that is in a death spiral.

I often fly to country towns and I am charged a landing fee I catch a taxi into town stay in a motel eat dinner in a local restaurant catch a taxi back to the airport refuel the aircraft and fly out. This contributes enormously to the local economy, however if I drive there is no landing fee. Then shouldn't the town through government grants fully fund the airport so I am not charged to land. This sort of thing would foster aviation the landing fee often is collected by a company called Avdata so by the time the airport owner (often the local council) gets the money there is so little there it is simply supporting Avdata.

My thoughts in summary:

- Remove Aviation from the department of Infrastructure and create a separate Department of Aviation to look after all things aviation.
- Change the regulator to mirror more closely the American FAA model
- Abolish landing fees airports must be run and funded by the Australian Government.
- Give airport tenants some security of tenure so they can train apprentices.
- Get rid of these property developers masquerading as airport owners.

Kind Regards



Greg Bastin