

CASA CEO - Estimates Opening Statement

Update since last estimates

- It has been a busy time for CASA since our last appearance in front of this Committee and I'm proud of our people who have been working hard on the various activities we have underway
- We published our GA Workplan in May which articulates the work in progress to address long-standing issues raised by the GA community.
- The Workplan provides a consolidated picture of all the activity that CASA has that will address issues raised with us by members of the GA community and contains transparent timelines for their delivery.
- Six of the 24 items in the Workplan have already been completed with benefits flowing to the aviation community, including for the flight training and aerial work sectors.
- Some of these initiatives in the Workplan support the aviation training pipeline, including the expansion of privileges for Grade 1 flight instructors, and allowing experienced industry flight examiners to conduct proficiency checks and flight examiner rating courses.
- We recognise general aviation's key role as a career steppingstone that builds skills and experience that are needed in the broader aviation community, and CASA is one of many that have a role to play to support the growth in skills and training.
- We also publicly consulted on policy options for improvements to our aviation medicine rules which saw high levels of engagement with over 600 respondents.
- One of the proposed reforms is to develop a new self-declared medical which will directly benefit general aviation. There was strong support for this which confirms what I have been hearing from my discussions with people in general aviation.
- We will now work with the industry Technical Working Group to refine our policy options before consulting with the broader aviation community again early next year to finalise the policy, with a view to introduce amendments to the regulations in the second half of next year.
- In June, we published the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Advanced Air Mobility Strategic Regulatory Roadmap which was co-designed with the aviation community and sets out our long-term plan for safely integrating emerging technologies into Australia's airspace and future regulatory system, alongside traditional aviation.
- Since the release of the roadmap, we have developed draft guidance material for how we think the regulations on vertiport design may operate and we will consult this initial idea publicly in the coming months.
- Service delivery timeframes still remain a challenge, but it is an area of significant focus, as is addressing concerns expressed by some in the aviation community that they are finding it hard to talk to CASA.

Increase in aviation activity pressures

- It has been encouraging to see the increase in activity industry has experienced since confidence to travel returned following the easing of COVID restrictions earlier in the year.
- While the efficiency of the system faced challenges, we are watching closely and have no evidence of safety being compromised.
- This has been confirmed following a series of surveillance events CASA conducted in August and September that focussed on carriage of dangerous goods, cabin crew, and ground operations at airports.

Engagement with industry

- It has been great to have met with so many members of the aviation community. Their passion for a safe and thriving aviation industry is unequivocal and admirable.
- Most have gone through a very challenging few years, and I'm grateful for their time, honesty, and their willingness to engage and work with CASA.

Wrap Up

- Thank you for the opportunity to make a few remarks, the executive team and I would be happy to take any questions