In absence, attached with the above emails is the latest draft of this letter. For consideration.

Regards

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CASA Corporate Relations and Strategy

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I take it that has approved this. Any input from Ops that Standards and LSD may have to consider further?

Regards

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I'm happy with the path you are taking. My point is, and you are addressing it, that as a result of a reliance on the AIP, which has no head of power and contains much that we need to revisit anyway, there is one group of pilots that have one view which leads to a mandatory diversion and another group with the opposite view. Putting aside the practicalities, both groups believe they are legally correct.

If we find ourselves in an AAT, or a court we once again look a bit foolish if we, the regulator, find ourselves in a position where we have to say there are two conflicting views, one of which has to be wrong, and we have done nothing to rectify that over the years. Very untidy.

Regards
I was talking to [person] yesterday in Brisbane and it seems we have some additional things we need to consider and form a CASA position on fuel planning and in-flight decision making.

- Our FOI population seems to be evenly split about the need, or not, to mandatorily divert to an alternate from the last point of possible diversion if the destination weather falls below alternate minima. Indeed the material prepared to go to the AAT in response to the James matter currently makes the statement that, because the weather at Norfolk had fallen below alternate minima, a diversion at or before the latest diversion point was mandatory. The basis for this split seems to be a statement in the AIP suggesting that this is a "legal" requirement. The other half believe that this is not the case and that the aircraft commander could continue to destination, even if the aircraft was not carrying alternate fuel. This is a position we must settle definitively, along with a number of other planning and in-flight decision making issues.
- The ATSB are apparently inclined to a mandated solution for a range of in-flight decision making issues and are likely to press that line. Clearly we may be heading to a difference of opinion here. While that is not the end of the world it may be that a meeting with the ATSB to discuss the issues will clear the air or at least provide a position from which we can respectfully disagree but not have a public scrap.

I am very keen that we address the whole issue of fuel planning and in-flight fuel related decision making, particularly in relation to ICAO's recent considerations. I also suggest that in our work we might consider the the question of remote airports generally and not just island destinations.

Regards

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From: CASA Official  
Sent: Thursday, 18 March 2010 13:46  
To: CASA Officials  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: TRIM: AO_2009_072 Norfolk Island Ditching_critical safety issue_CASA ltr.docx [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  

I'm happy with the letter.

Can you pass this through the normal legal and ops channels - I presume that this will go out via the ALIU?

Regards

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From: CASA Official  
Sent: Thursday, 18 March 2010 13:39  
To: CASA Officials  
Cc:  
Subject: FW: TRIM: AO_2009_072 Norfolk Island Ditching_critical safety issue_CASA ltr.docx [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  

As you have requested to be kept in the loop on what actions CASA is taking in regard to the Norfolk Island accident please find attached the draft response to the ATSB safety issue. I thought that this should go to you before