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20 September, 2021

Attention: Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee
Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport
Department of the Senate
T 02 6277 3511
E rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

REFERENCE:

RRAT References Committee – Australia’s general aviation industry hearing - 7 September 2021 - Hansard corrections and answers to questions on notice

Questions taken on Notice for Senator McCarthy:

1. What is the number of trainee mustering pilots in the Northern Regions?
2. Of those trainees how many are indigenous?

Answers:

1. We have sought industry advice from a training provider from SE QLD regarding how many of their current trainees are from the Northern Regions and how many of those would go on to do their mustering endorsement. They currently have two ringers from the Northern Regions completing their commercial helicopter pilot’s licence, one from NW QLD and one from the NT. They would most likely go on to do their mustering endorsement with a Flight Examiner that is approved for mustering training. As we understand it, the pilot would have to complete a minimum of 5 hours training and be signed off by the Examiner.

(additional comments)

Our company has a Part 141 to conduct mustering training, however we are only able to do that for employees within our company. Under this approval we are required to conduct 30 hours in-house training. The pilot then has to complete a flight test with a Flight Examiner which we usually have to source from interstate. So, our approved trainers who conduct mustering operations on a regular basis, who would be vastly more current than an Examiner have to carry out an additional 25 hours training which could take up to a month or more to complete.

2. The training provider we spoke to has one indigenous male undergoing training and another about to start their private pilot’s licence soon. They have advised the indigenous trainees are competent with the practical flying elements however they struggle with the exams or theory side which has led them to provide one on one tutoring to help the one’s struggling get through the theory.

If you would like any further information, please let me know.

Kind regards.

Paul Blore
Director