



**Australian Government**

**Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development**

*File Reference:* 10/12246

The Hon Wyatt Roy MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Roy

**Subject: JSCOT public hearing 10 February 2014**

I refer to the public hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties on 10 February 2014, at which this Department answered questions in relation to:

- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia relating to Air Services, done at Belgrade on 14 May 2013, [2013] ATNIF 13; and
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu relating to Air Services, done at Port Villa on 2 July 2013, [2013] ATNIF 20.

During the hearing, in response to questions from Committee Members, I undertook to provide further information on a range of matters relating to the two air services agreements. Please see responses to the questions taken on notice at **Attachment A**.

I trust this information will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Borthwick  
General Manager  
Aviation Industry Policy

26 February 2014

**Questions on Notice - Joint Standing Committee on Treaties**

**10 February 2014**

*Questions from Senator Fawcett:*

**Have any ramp checks been done and have any issues been found with that?**

Ramp Checks have been conducted on Air Vanuatu by Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) with no significant findings. Serbian operators do not conduct operations to Australia therefore no ramp checks have been conducted by CASA.

**Can you tell me if any differences have been filed by either of the other contracting parties with ICAO that would give them permission to deviate from the ICAO standards?**

Both Serbia and Vanuatu have formally notified ICAO of differences from the ICAO standards. Based on the current data available from ICAO records, Serbia has notified 183 substantive differences and Vanuatu has notified 82 substantive differences.

**Have there been any requests for consultations from CASA with either of the other contracting parties over their regulations or specific operating issues with airlines in those two countries?**

No, CASA has not requested consultations in regards to either of the contracting parties. Air Vanuatu does not have any operational conditions on their Foreign Aircraft Air Operator Certificate (FAAOC) in addition to those normally included on such Certificates.

**What checks have been done to make sure that the lessons we hopefully have learned from the Norfolk Island incident have been taken up by airlines operating from Vanuatu?**

Before a FAAOC is issued to an international operator, and as part of CASA's ongoing oversight of the holder, CASA assesses the application against International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Annex 6 criteria, as well as the relevant provisions of the Australian civil aviation legislation. As part of the process of assessing international airline operations, the airline's Flight Operations Manual and, where applicable, the En-Route Flight Manual, are examined to determine that the company procedures detail all the fuel carriage contingencies for each flight.

*Question from Mrs Prentice:*

**We have had an agreement with Vanuatu for 21 years. Has there ever been a dispute?**

No.

*Question from the Chair (Wyatt Roy):*

**To give us an idea of the scope of the benefit of the agreement, is there a dollar figure that could be applied for the increased opportunities for tourism and commercial development that you talked about?**

It is difficult to attribute a dollar figure to the economic impact of the establishment or expansion of an Air Services Agreement. Much depends on the extent to which commercial entitlements under the Agreement are taken up. Direct benefits to an airline attributed to the ability for it to add a destination to its network and to improved people-to-people links are also difficult to quantify. It is estimated, however, that visitors from Serbia in the year to November 2013 contributed \$12.9 million to the Australian economy, while visitors from Vanuatu contributed \$30.7 million over the same period.