



Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader National Party of Australia

IN-CONFIDENCE

2 April 2003

Mr Bruce Gemmell
Deputy Director of Aviation Safety
CASA Building
cnr Northbourne Avenue and Barry Drive
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Bruce

The little I saw of yesterday's meeting did not fill me with confidence that the airspace arrangements are being handled in a way that will see the project successfully concluded on time.

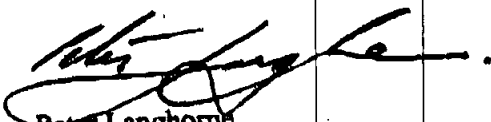
If we are encountering so much difficulty with a relatively simple issue now, one wonders how we are going to get through the MBZ issue for implementation in November.

Mike Smith has been asked to work with you to come up with a viable solution within two weeks to overcome the complications caused by the insertion of the CASA document so that a brief can be provided to the Minister. This solution should make it clear how the negative impact of the CASA document can be completely overcome by July and what regulatory and other changes will need to be made in order to completely and safely accommodate what the ARG intends to implement in July.

Before he goes on leave, the Minister will be contacting Mick Toller setting out his position and making it clear that he wants this matter fixed.

At the request of the Minister I have sent a copy of correspondence from Dick Smith to Ken Matthews and would ask that you consult with the department so that the Minister can reply in the near future. Of particular concern is an extract of a letter from Jim Shirley to Mike Smith, which indicates that NAS may be anything but the top priority. I am at my wits end as to how the Minister's message can be got across to your organisation.

Regards



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Chief of Staff

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