

From: Anderson, John (MP)
Date: Thursday, April 03, 2003 12:03 PM
To: TOLLER, Mick
Cc: Ken.Matthews@dotars.gov.au
Subject: AIRSPACE REFORM

Dear Mick

Recent events reduce my comfort level with the way CASA is handling my airspace reform agenda.

While I remain broadly on side with CASA, I am getting a strong impression that some of your middle ranking people are still opposed to the changes. I ask myself the question as to whether this could be driven by a personal dislike for the former Chair of CASA. I certainly hope that this is not the case. Nevertheless, I want you to give a blunt warning to the people concerned that I will not tolerate them playing politics or destabilising this project in any way.

As I have said previously, the safety issues related to this project are a matter for CASA and Airservices to resolve. However, this does not extend to stalling tactics. My office is most concerned that as we are encountering so much difficulty with a relatively simple issue now how are we ever going to get through the MBZ issue for implementation in November.

I have said it numerous times before and I say it again that apart from the day to day safety issues airspace reform is my top priority and I expect this to be reflected in your programmes as well. Clearly some of you have still to get this message. Recent correspondence from Jim Shirley to Mike Smith simply confirms this.

I want you to take direct charge of this matter and as such I will hold you personally responsible for ensuring that CASA provides the appropriate level of cooperation and complete its part of the project on time. In particular, as set out in Peter Langhorne's note to Bruce Gemmell, CASA is to work with Mike Smith to come up with a viable solution within two weeks to overcome the complications caused by the insertion of the CASA document in the IG correspondence.

Mike Smith has my full support and I expect CASA to take this into account when dealing with him and that CASA will give him the same level of support as I do.

Frankly, given that in essence we are really only aligning our air space arrangements more closely with the world's biggest aviation nation, the U.S., those responsible for making the changes are beginning to look more than a little ineffective, and are beginning to look a bit ridiculous. I am not impressed – I want action and I want it fast Mick.

We are all spending too much time on this and as stated previously, I want you to take charge personally and sort it out with the IG, Airservices and CASA.

JOHN ANDERSON