

**Meeting with CASA – 4 April 2003**

- The Minister has told me that he is doubtful that CASA is committed to airspace reform
  - particularly at middle level.
- He says that he sees clear evidence of CASA foot-dragging. He thinks CASA (and the individual senior staff who were personally involved in the CASA insert) have “got away lightly” for their behaviour on the CASA insert.
- He expects Mick to take a much more hands-on role in relation to airspace reform.
- He wants airspace reform to have priority over other CASA activities, including other Ministerially-endorsed priorities for CASA.
- He has sent a blunt message to Mick by email. He says he will not tolerate CASA playing politics or destabilising the airspace reform project in any way.
- He has said to Mick that he will be holding him personally responsible for ensuring the CASA cooperate, on time.
  - in particular there is only two weeks for CASA and the IG to come up with a proposal to overcome the complications caused by the CASA insert.
- He wants action and he wants it fast. He wants Mick to take charge personally of this issue.
- The Minister has said to me that he will make executive changes in the various agencies if necessary. He wants safe and timely implementation and a mindset which is about how agencies can cooperate to make it happen. He accepts of course the statutory responsibilities of each agency but he wants action within those statutory responsibilities – including the overriding safety objective – to make it happen.
- These comments from the Minister may be unpalatable but they are a warning to us all.
- We have a professional responsibility to be thoroughly responsible and responsive to the Minister, within the law.
- The Minister has every right to exert his will in this way. We now need to get cracking on it.
- I will be speaking in similar terms to Airservices on Monday.