

To the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport,

After losing my son, Fred Vejsil Solomon Bowie, in the Lockhart River crash I wish to make the following submission regarding the performance of CASA and their responsibilities for the events leading to the crash. I also speak on behalf of all the other families in the Indigenous community of Injinoo in the Northern Peninsula Area of Cape York Queensland.

- We are still not satisfied with the overall response from CASA following the investigation and inquiry into the crash and the length of time it took to get some answers. We believe that if CASA had done their job properly in the beginning, the crash would not have happened.
- The lives of our family members and respect for our loss is far more important than defending the poor operations of CASA.
- CASA should do their job properly so that these accidents do not happen again. We feel that it is a little too late now to put changes in place, as this should have been done before. A manual of proper operation procedures should have been put out before the accident, not after.
- The inquiry showed that CASA did not take proper responsibility for preventing such accidents, and everything now goes back to them. CASA was saying from the start that it was the fault of others.
- The information from the black box should that the pilot could not hear other messages and had to ask other pilots about the weather.
- The terrain warning message system failed to alert the pilot properly. It only sounded once when it should have sounded four or five times more, as in the manual. The pilot thought it was clear, but he should have known in that area about the weather and terrain.
- CASA should have made sure that the manual was there and followed. Service due dates should have been enforced by CASA. The plane should have been grounded if it was not sound to fly. maintenance of aircraft is important and should be thoroughly checked before and not after.
- The accident was not the pilot's fault, it was something to do with the plane.
- CASA should accept fault and take responsibility. it was not the pilot, it goes back to CASA and their responsibility to make sure all of the rules are followed.
- The plane was known to be in poor condition, we had flown on it before and could smell burning metal or materials. The plane was supposed to be sent for service, but it did not and was still allowed to fly. The plane should have been grounded. The council here was told a new plane was to take over, but nothing happened and then there was the accident.
- The role of CASA is to monitor aviation flights and maintenance of planes and this was not done.

- We sincerely hope that something positive comes from this inquiry as this loss has been deeply felt by the community.

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