



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Secretary

Mr Laurie Taylor
737 Fleet Manager Engineering
QANTAS Airways Limited
Engineering and Maintenance
Locked Bag 12
Tullamarine VIC 3043

Dear Mr Taylor

Commonwealth Support for the Australian Aviation Wildlife Hazard Group (AAWHG)

Thank you for your letter dated 4 May 2010 about possible formal Commonwealth recognition of AAWHG. As the issues of bird and wildlife management in aviation are of interest to both the Department and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), I have asked our agencies to work together to formulate a model under which AAWHG might be formally recognised by the Commonwealth. I apologise for the delay in replying to your letter while this consultation took place.

I acknowledge the significant work of AAWHG in promoting awareness, education and risk mitigation relating to bird and wildlife hazards to aviation. It is a credit to the individuals and their organisations that they are able to provide ongoing commitment to the work of AAWHG.

The Department and CASA recognises the important role of AAWHG in meeting the thrust of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Airport Services Manual Part 3 – Bird Control and Reduction (ICAO Doc 9137) and Conclusion 18/1 of ICAO's Asia Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group, regarding the establishment of National Bird and Wildlife Management Committees with respect to aviation.

The Department and CASA are prepared to continue support of AAWHG through a shared secretariat support role and continuing attendance in an appropriate capacity at the Group. Further to this, I propose to strengthen the capacity of the Commonwealth to consider the work of AAWHG through formal recognition of AAWHG by the Aviation Implementation Group (AIG). AIG supports the Aviation Policy Group (APG) in the implementation of cross-agency aviation strategies. The APG, although not a decision-making body, provides a forum for effective inter-agency policy coordination and for working through air traffic management and other aviation cross-agency issues at a strategic level. APG brings together the Chief Executive Officers of the Department, CASA, Airservices Australia and the Chief of Air Force on behalf of Defence.

I believe industry leadership will be critical to the ongoing success and capability of AAWHG and see it as important that industry continue to commit resources to the Group and that industry provide an independent chair to oversee the work of the group.

I would also like to thank AAWHG for providing a submission in response to the Department's Discussion Paper: *Safeguards for Airports and the Communities Around Them*. As you are aware, the

Government has recognised the importance of these issues by committing in its Aviation White Paper: Flight Path to the Future, to develop national guidelines for wildlife hazard management in and around airports to minimise birdstrike and other wildlife hazards.

I would like to see AAWHG use its expertise to lead the development of the national guidelines as outlined in the White Paper. The Department will be happy to provide assistance to support this important task.

If you wish to discuss these issues in more detail, please contact Mr Scott Stone, General Manager, Aviation Environment, on 02 6274 7605 or email scott.stone@infrastructure.gov.au.

Thank you for raising these issues.

Yours sincerely



Mike Mrdak

15 July 2010