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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Airports welcome Aviation Green Paper

The peak body representing the airport sector, the Australian Airports Association (AAA), welcomes the release of the Federal Government's Aviation Green Paper as a way to help shape the future of the sector.

"This process is an important opportunity to review the policy and regulatory settings to get the right framework to have a thriving aviation sector for the decades to come," AAA Chief Executive, James Goodwin said.

"We look forward to working with Minister King to develop immediate and long-term solutions for airport operators.

"Airline competition must be a focus for the Federal Government during this process so customers don't lose confidence in air travel."

AAA National Chair, Kym Meys said it is crucial the process also brings the sector together on reaching emissions targets.

"The time is right to review the range of existing and emerging settings impacting the sector as it recovers from the impacts of the pandemic," AAA National Chair, Kym Meys said.

"Airports have a role to play in reducing emissions via scope one and two, and Australian airports are committed to playing their part in meeting aviation 2050 targets," Ms Meys said.

"We have seen airports affected by recent extreme weather, including floods and fires, and it is encouraging to see the process examining what needs to be done to help prepare airports to be more resilient during extreme weather events.

The AAA is pleased to see government agencies are a focus in the White Paper process.

"It is crucial the role and effectiveness of government authorities is also examined. This includes ensuring Airservices Australia is operating effectively and Australia's borders are efficient and incorporate new technology. Reform of the slot management system at Sydney must be implemented to benefit the entire aviation network," Mr Goodwin said.

“The AAA looks forward to working not just with airport members, but with all industries involved in the airport ecosystem in compiling our response to government,” AAA Chief Executive, James Goodwin said.

“Importantly, the AAA remains committed to ensure that regional airports and aerodromes are not forgotten during this process. With most airports and aerodromes owned by local governments, the White Paper needs to ensure that our regions have the right infrastructure to handle future aviation developments.”

“Airports are vital to the economic and social wellbeing of all Australians, keeping communities connected. In many parts of the country, aviation is often the only form of public transport connecting regional and remote Australians medical and other essential services.”

Prior to the pandemic, the airport sector provided employment for more than 206,000 Australians, including 8,700 people directly employed by airports. Airports added \$34.6 billion (around two per cent) to Australia’s Gross Domestic Product, consisting of \$4.9 billion in direct economic activity from core aviation activities plus a further \$29.7 billion of indirect and value-added airport-related activities.

The AAA is the national voice for airports, representing the interests of more than 340 airports and aerodromes across Australia. It also represents more than 150 corporate members supplying products and services to airports and the wider aviation industry.

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