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Budget Submission calls for critical support for regional airports

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has lodged its 2024 Pre-Budget Submission, calling for significant and critical investment to support a safe and sustainable airport sector.

The Association's key priorities include closing the infrastructure gap at regional and remote airports by re-instating dedicated grants programs, improving consumer confidence with the introduction of an independent Airline Ombudsman and implementing an independent review of Airservices Australia.

"Airports are critical infrastructure, providing services that generate substantial employment and increasing connectivity within Australia and internationally," AAA Chief Executive James Goodwin said.

"It is important the Federal Government considers ways to unlock investment by reducing red tape so airports can continue supporting local communities by facilitating a diverse spectrum of aviation, tourism, and freight services.

"We urge the government to address anti-competitive behaviour in domestic aviation, funding safety critical aeronautical infrastructure and providing disaster resilience funding programs."

"The submission also lists recommendations for maximising aviation's contribution to net zero, developing consistent security screening regulations and supporting the delivery of skills and workforce development programs for airports," Mr Goodwin said.

Recent analysis published by Deloitte Access Economics, found Australia's airports contributed \$105 billion in value added (VA) to the national economy, supporting 690,000 full time equivalent jobs.

The economic activity at and facilitated by airports, contributed around 5 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) and supported 6 per cent of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in 2022.

To read the submission visit the AAA website here: <https://airports.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Federal-Budget-Submission-2024.pdf>

Ends.

Contact the AAA for media enquiries on 02 6230 1110.