



**The Hon Darren Chester MP**  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport  
*Deputy Leader of the House*  
*Member for Gippsland*



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30 MAY 2017

Mr Josh Munro  
Coroners Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Mr Munro

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 2017 regarding the Coroners Court of Victoria's investigation into the deaths of Mr Reginald Thaggard and Mr Jordan Pang. I regret the delay in responding.

With regard to Recommendation Five of the Inquest Report, I can advise that the Australian Government has maintained funding levels for the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in the recent 2017 Budget. The allocation of that funding, including that made available to recreational aviation administration organisations, is a matter for CASA, noting competing priorities including the regulation of major passenger transport services.

In relation to Recommendation Six, the Australian Government funds the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) to continue to give priority to transport safety investigations that have the potential to deliver the best safety outcomes for the travelling public. In the 2017 Budget, the Government increased the ATSB's funding by an additional \$12 million over five years.

The ATSB also assists relevant sport and recreational aviation associations where resources permit. This assistance ranges from basic aircraft accident investigation fundamentals training through to producing a range of publications highlighting relevant safety messages for pilots and sport and recreational aviation generally.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely

**DARREN CHESTER**