

OFFICIAL



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

LEGAL, INTERNATIONAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

CASA Ref: F25/12572

14 May 2025

Coroner Paul Lawrie
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street,
Southbank VIC 3006

By email to [REDACTED]

Inquest into the Death of Mathew Martin Farrell

Dear Coroner Lawrie

I am writing in response to the recommendations you made in relation to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in your findings into the death of Mr Farrell.

Recommendation 1 - That CASA review the conduct of RAAus during this investigation and inquest, including the conduct of its officers and key personnel.

CASA accepts this recommendation and is reviewing the information identified in submissions and evidence, as set out in the Coroner's findings, to determine whether there were any actions or omissions on the part of RAAus which were in breach of the regulatory requirements set out in Part 149 of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* (CASR). It is expected that review will be completed soon and we will provide you with further information when the review and any action taken in response to the review is completed.

Recommendation 2(a) - That CASA facilitates amendments to Section 2.13 of the RAAus Flight Operations Manual to clarify the aeronautical experience that may constitute "recognised flight time" according to each aircraft type or group for which the experience is required.

CASA accepts the recommendation and considers it has been addressed by actions detailed below.

Direction notices under regulation 149.120(1) of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998* were issued to RAAus on 25 June 2024 and 10 July 2024, directing it to amend its Part 149 Exposition, namely version 7.1.1 of its Flight Operations Manual (FOM).

RAAus made amendments to the FOM on 17 July 2024, by inserting the following text:

For the purpose of this manual **recognised flight time** is:

1. For gaining a **Group A Pilot Certificate** and associated Endorsements, Ratings and Approvals:
 - a. **all dual and pilot in command hours gained in a three-axis powered aeroplane.**
2. For gaining a **Group B, C, D or F Pilot Certificate** and associated Endorsements, Ratings and Approvals:
 - a. all dual and pilot in command hours flown when obtaining a Pilot Certificate with another RAAO, or equivalent overseas qualification and endorsement, rating and approval **associated with these qualifications for the corresponding aircraft Group;** or
 - b. verified logbook entries of training undertaken towards the attainment of a Licence or Certificate with a recognised organisation.

Recommendation 2 (b) - That CASA facilitates amendments to Section 2.13 of the RAAus *Flight Operations Manual* to clarify the aeronautical experience required for endorsements.

CASA accepts the recommendation.

CASA has been liaising with RAAus about the contents of its FOM on this issue. RAAus will be amending the FOM to make clear the individual requirements for the issuing of each endorsement. CASA expects to receive the revised FOM for assessment by the end of August 2025.

Recommendation 2 (c) - That CASA facilitates amendments to Section 2.13 of the RAAus *Flight Operations Manual*, where flight testing is required for a particular endorsement, to clarify whether such flight testing may be conducted concurrently with flight testing required for pilot certification or other endorsements.

CASA accepts the recommendation.

CASA has been liaising with RAAus about the contents of its FOM on this issue. RAAus will be amending the FOM to clarify when flight testing may be conducted concurrently with flight testing required for pilot certification or other endorsements. CASA expects to receive the revised FOM for assessment by the end of August 2025.

Recommendation 3 - That CASA facilitates amendments to the RAAus *Flight Operations Manual* to include a definition of "aeroplane" consistent with the definition found in the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*, and a definition of "aircraft" consistent with the definition found in the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*.

CASA accepts the recommendation and considers it has been addressed by the change process detailed below.

The direction notices referred to above also noted "...the term 'aeroplane' has the meaning prescribed by Part 1 of the Dictionary to the CASRs." RAAus amended the FOM on 17 July 2024, by inserting the following definition in it:

Aeroplane - A power-driven heavier-than-air aircraft deriving its lift in flight chiefly from aerodynamic reactions on surfaces remaining fixed under given conditions of flight, but does not include a power-assisted sailplane. Note: an aeroplane includes a touring motor glider.

Resultant changes were also made to the term 'aircraft' throughout the FOM, except where 'aeroplane' was required in accordance with the updated definition. A definition of 'aircraft' and 'touring motor glider' was also inserted into the FOM.

Publication of response

While CASA is not a public statutory authority or entity for the purposes of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic), we have no objection to CASA's response being published and copies provided to persons with an interest in the recommendations in accordance with the Coroners Act.

We will write to you once the review referred to in response to Recommendation 1 and any action CASA takes in response to that review is completed. Please contact me if there is anything else that you require.

Yours sincerely



Garrick Larkin
National Manager, Legal Services