

# **GENERAL AVIATION INDUSTRY JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

**C/- Archerfield Airport Chamber of Commerce Inc  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GA Industry Condemns Minister Albanese Over Safety Hypocrisy**

Decisions made by Federal Infrastructure and Transport Minister Hon Anthony Albanese have made Brisbane's Archerfield Airport more dangerous. The Minister permitted a development inside the "Public Safety Area" of the airport despite what he told the Australian People in Parliament on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010 - the second reading speech for the Airports Amendment Bill 2010 giving effect to the National Aviation Policy Statement.

A "Public Safety Area" is a defined area immediately at the ends of runways at high use airports where development is effectively forbidden. It is designed to protect persons on the ground and in aircraft from the known high risk of aircraft arrival and departure accidents near runways ends, for example, aircraft overrunning / undershooting the runway on take off and landing. To lessen the identified significant risk to the public, state legislation requires there should be no increase in the number of people living, working or congregating in these areas and/or the accumulation of obstacles such as vegetation, (trees), buildings, vehicles, machinery, and signage etc. All such obstacles present a safety hazard to people on the ground as well as aviation.

The National Aviation Policy Statement states "The Australian Government proposes working with State Territory and Local Governments and Industry Stakeholders to undertake a detailed examination of Public Safety Areas in the vicinity of airports" advising that this would substantially improve aviation and community safety.

Without any consultation with users, the Airport Leasing Company, Archerfield Airport Corporation failed to give the necessary community notice about the proposed development on their website nor did they make an application to the Federal Building Control Officer as required by law and self-approved their own development plan in the "Public Safety Area" of the main runway of Archerfield Airport

The Minister despite being sent a safety report and a letter from the lawyers of Archerfield Airport Chamber of Commerce Inc advising of the safety issues in the "public safety area" and that this required his immediate attention acted contrary to what he told the Australian People he would do.

On 1st April 2011 acting on behalf of Minister Anthony Albanese, the section head of Airports responded with correspondence that admitted the development was within the “Public Safety Area” and despite what he had told the Australian public, confirmed that the Federal Government would disregard the State Government “Public Safety Area” legislation.

Further the Minister failed to do anything to stop inappropriate development in non-compliance with other safety laws designed to protect the airport putting lives at risk and further degrading the airport. CASA also needs to be brought to account to show why it is pasting over safety issues for the Federal Government.

This is despite Minister Albanese stating on the record when opening CASA’s new Brisbane Headquarters “*And Nothing, I repeat nothing, is as important in aviation as safety*”.... But Archerfield Airport is now dangerous because of what he failed to do.

The Archerfield Airport Draft Master Plan, currently the subject of a Ministerial decision by Mr Albanese to either approve or reject the draft plan proposes that the entire “Public Safety Area” on airport land be developed mainly as industrial land, contrary to Queensland State Planning Laws and safety.

**General Aviation Industry Joint Members:**



Lindsay Snell – President  
Archerfield Airport Chamber of Commerce Inc.



Darrin Ward – President  
Save Our Secondary Airports Association Inc.



Michael Braybrook – President  
Jandakot Airport Chamber of Commerce



Dr Richard Gates – President  
Evans Head Memorial Aerodrome Committee Inc.



Philip Reiss – President  
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association Ltd



M.P. [Kim] Rolph-Smith - President  
Australian Warbirds Association Limited



Michael Keenan – Chairman  
Australian Business Aircraft Association Inc.



Eugene Reid - President  
Recreational Aviation Australia Inc.

6<sup>th</sup> September 2011

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**[Media Links - Youtube](#)**

["Minister Anthony Albanese - What I Say v What I Do"](#)

["Archerfield Airport – Government & CASA Pasting Over Airport Safety Issues"](#)

**Attachments:**

A Technical Appraisal of Air Operations from Runway 28R/10L Archerfield Airport - Brisbane  
National Aviation Policy Statement- Page 174  
Queensland State Planning Policy 1/02 – Development in the Vicinity of Certain Airports and Aviation Facilities

**Links:**

[Minister Albanese's Speech Opening of CASA Building Brisbane](#)  
[Hansard - House of Representatives 30.9.2010](#)

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