



Press Release

6 November 2008

Sharp Airlines & RAAA Congratulates the Federal Government

Sharp Airlines and the Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA) welcomed the recent decision by the Federal Government to approve the Master Plan for Essendon Airport.

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government made the announcement; he stated "The Master Plan sets out the strategic direction and intended uses for the next 20 years, and I have advised Essendon Airport management that the Government has no current plans to close the airport or relax the curfew".

"Given statements by the Victorian government to close the airport in the 'medium term' it is clear that commonsense has now prevailed and an essential piece of aviation infrastructure has been saved" said RAAA CEO Paul Tyrrell.

For over 85 years Essendon Airport has provided regional and metropolitan Victorians with a range of vital services, including emergency aero-medical, aerial fire-fighting, the Victoria Police Air Wing, regular public transport, freight and flight training to name just a few.

"The airport is an essential link to regional and rural Victoria for many business and leisure travellers" said Sharp Airlines Managing Director, Malcolm Sharp.

"Without Essendon airport we could not provide reasonably priced airlines services to the Western Region, Essendon Airport is essential to our business and linking Melbourne to regional Victoria" said Malcolm Sharp.

"Essendon Airport, with its future now assured, can continue to grow its aviation and non-aviation businesses, providing employment and wealth creation opportunities to Victorians, regional and metropolitan, for years to come" said Paul Tyrrell.

"The Australian aviation industry has been neglected by governments of all persuasions for many years. Minister Albanese has demonstrated a new commitment. The soon to be released Aviation Green Paper is keenly anticipated by all Australians interested in growing this nation's aviation capacities" said Malcolm Sharp.

— END —

Further Information: <http://www.saveessendonairport.com.au/>

Media Enquiries:

Sharp Airlines Media - Heidi Sheil Jarvis 0438 778 161
RAAA CEO - Paul Tyrrell 0438 114 372