

PRESS RELEASE 24 April 2015

## **Aviation New Zealand supports Carterton balloon accident inquest recommendations**

Aviation NZ supports the Coroner's recommendations on the 2012 Carterton balloon accident that were published today.

"Aviation NZ is committed to a safe and sustainable aviation industry in every sector throughout New Zealand" said Samantha Sharif, Aviation NZ Chief Executive.

"Our commercial operators have had zero tolerance drug and alcohol regimes in place for many years – with random testing being a key component of these regimes. These D&A policies are also audited by the industry regulator CAA. We fully support the extension of these regimes through legislated standards for drugs and alcohol impairment in aviation – including adventure aviation.

In fact, today we are lodging our submission on the Ministry of Transport's Clear Heads Policy, where we fully support the introduction of clear legal limits on drugs and alcohol in the aviation sector."

Aviation NZ is the industry body representing the aviation sector in NZ.

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Notes for Editors:

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Key facts about Aviation New Zealand**

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry.

It was established in 1950 to encourage the safe growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. In more recent years, it has also become involved in helping the international development of its members.

- Aviation New Zealand has over 1300 members and stakeholders

- Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), UAV industry, aircraft designers and manufacturers, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies and parts manufacturers.

#### Key facts about aviation in New Zealand

An 'early adopter' in aviation terms – first international customer for Boeing; first pilot training school 1916; first airmail 1919; and quick appreciation of the suitability of aviation for agriculture, tourism and forestry.

4502 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, giving New Zealand one of the highest aircraft per capita ratios in the world.

Decades of policy innovation to support competition, safety and growth; 30m km<sup>2</sup> of safely managed airspace; and exports to over 80 countries on all continents.

Aircraft fit-outs, new aircraft (including UAVs), GPS track and tracing systems, high precision processes (for example bait and fire fighting), composites, titanium powders, and aviation industry business and operational systems are just some of the exciting technologies and practices developing in New Zealand which set the scene for growth in the next 100 years.