

PRESS RELEASE 29 October 2015

**Aviation New Zealand supports TAIC's improvements to its safety investigation processes following its independent process review occasioned by the Fox Glacier accident outcomes**

Aviation NZ supports TAIC's improvements to its safety investigation processes announced today.

We welcome any findings which help to improve the already strong safety performance of the NZ aviation industry", said Samantha Sharif, Aviation NZ Chief Executive. "The recommendations of the independent review of TAIC will help to improve the robustness of the vital safety investigation process and we are pleased to see that TAIC is already acting on those recommendations.

An aviation accident, which involves injury or death can have a direct impact on our overseas image. This is why Aviation NZ is committed to a safe and sustainable aviation industry and a key part of our role is to promote best practice in industry, assisting tourism flight operators to achieve that through their membership of Aviation NZ and the ongoing support we provide through our Annual Aviation Summit, and other events – all with the objective of safe and sustainable industry growth."

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 2000 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.