

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9 October 2014

## **Aviation NZ confirms support for NZ helicopter industry**

“We confirm our support for the future of the NZ helicopter industry, despite the news this week that HeliPro had been placed in receivership,” said Aviation NZ CEO Samantha Sharif.

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

“A key focus for Aviation NZ is ensuring the long-term sustainability of our aviation industry. We offer a number of tools to assist our members with this; including a focus on successful business and operating models” said Sharif.

The aviation industry is characterised by high fixed-costs for both aircraft and staff, and we are working with our members to create more resilient and flexible business models which will allow them to ride out tough economic cycles.

We are also looking at the significant impact that Unmanned Aerial Vehicles will have on traditional operators and finding ways to build this into opportunities for our members.

We are aware that helicopter flight training resumed today at HeliPro and that decisions around the future of fixed wing training will be made soon.

Of significance to international students is that their fees have been paid, as required, into trust accounts and, therefore, their funds are protected.

We will be talking further to HeliPro in the coming days and would be pleased to provide any independent advice on the future of the aviation sector to the receivers, should this be required” said Sharif.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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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 600 members
- Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), 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.



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