
2025 - 26
YEAR
IN REVIEW
AUSTRALIAN
AIRPORTS
ASSOCIATION



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CONNECTING AUSTRALIA'S AIRPORTS

FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS

For more than four decades, the Australian Airports Association (AAA) has been the unifying force behind Australia's airports, bringing together 340 airport members and 150 corporate partners across the aviation sector.

Our significant program of work is focused on supporting a strong advocacy agenda, and creating opportunities for the airport industry to network, collaborate and share information.

As a AAA member, you gain access to exclusive resources, industry news, professional development, events, and networking opportunities — while playing a part in shaping the future of Australian aviation.

Together, we continue to ensure a safe, secure, environmentally responsible, and efficient industry for the benefit of all Australians and visitors.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

It has been a defining period for Australia's airports sector, with change accelerating across every part of the operating environment.

The AAA has remained a leading voice for the sector, positioning airports as key drivers of economic growth and vital connectors for communities.

Record passenger volumes at many airports have been driven by international travel, alongside a steadying of domestic and general aviation, and growth in charter and FIFO activity.

In parallel, our member airports are continuing to adapt to rising input and fuel costs while planning for sustainable long-term growth.

On behalf of our members, the AAA team has worked extremely hard to ensure our airports help shape future outcomes.

The AAA has leaned into some of the most consequential reforms the sector has seen in years.

This includes border modernisation and security reforms, as well as sustainability, accessibility, consumer protection and support for our many regional and remote airports.

Our work continues to prioritise practical outcomes aligned with the realities of today and the near-term outlook for airport operations.

This is critically important in regional and remote Australia, where the challenges facing airports have sharpened the national focus on connectivity and community impact.

Through targeted policy and advocacy, including engagement in public inquiries, the AAA has ensured these issues remain front and centre, and that long-term solutions stay on the agenda.

The establishment of the Federal Parliamentary Friends of Aviation group, led by the AAA, marks a major step forward in deepening engagement with decision-makers and reinforcing the role airports play in connecting communities and enabling economic growth and jobs.

AAA events have remained central to how we connect, share knowledge, and support one another as a sector.

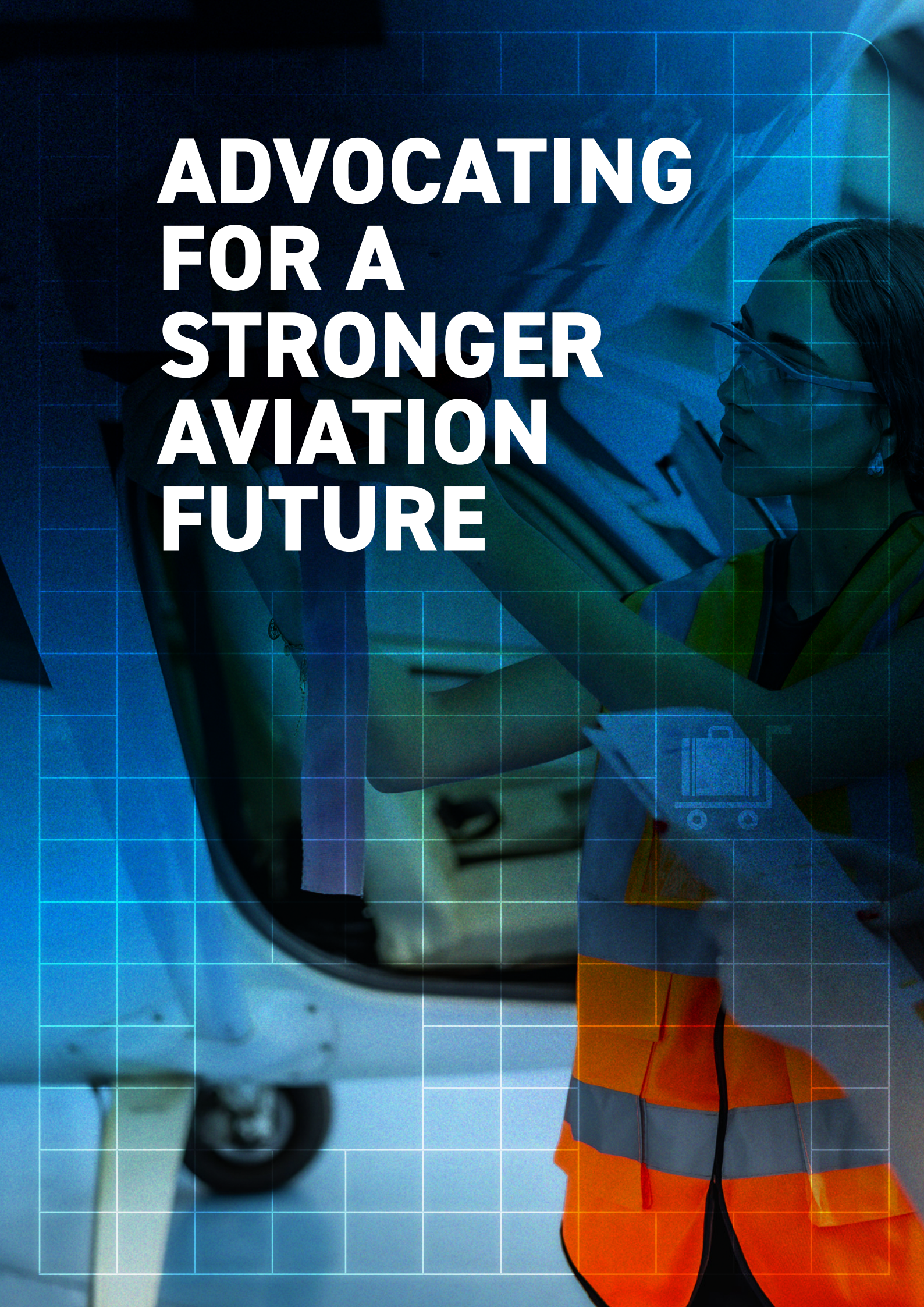
Across the year, our conferences, forums, and workshops have brought many members together to exchange practical insights, explore emerging challenges and build relationships.

These moments of connection are essential. They enable collaboration across airports of all sizes, strengthen capability across the network, and ensure our members are better equipped to respond to change.

The continued strength of participation across all our AAA events is also reflected in our evolving suite of offerings, including our online education products.

Together, we are shaping the future of Australia's airports sector, and we look forward to continuing to best represent and advocate for you.





ADVOCATING FOR A STRONGER AVIATION FUTURE

DELIVERING FOR AUSTRALIA'S AIRPORTS SECTOR

FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS

Over the past year, the AAA has worked on behalf of members during a period of significant reform, disruption and change across the aviation sector.

From major regulatory changes to ongoing pressures in regional aviation, the Policy and Advocacy team has worked closely with Government, Parliament, industry stakeholders and media to influence decisions, shape policy outcomes and ensure airports are properly considered in the policies that affect them.

It's been a significant year for the sector and the AAA has been focused on outcomes. This has included securing a proportionate approach to consumer protection reforms, advocating for immediate support for regional airports following the collapse of Rex, progressing national discussions on fuel security and resilience, and positioning airports at the centre of emerging policy on accessibility, sustainability, safety and border modernisation.

With further reform on the horizon, this work remains critical to ensuring airports are supported to operate, invest and deliver for their communities, and to maintaining a strong, resilient and connected aviation network for Australia.



POLICY AND ADVOCACY
AT A GLANCE

- Shaping Aviation Consumer Protection reforms and Ombudsman Scheme
- Advancing border modernisation and seamless travel
- Supporting regional aviation sustainability
- Driving action on aviation fuel security and supply resilience
- Progressing Australian Sustainable Aviation Fuel and the net zero transition
- Providing airport specific insight on accessibility reform
- Influencing security and cyber reform

AVIATION CONSUMER PROTECTION REFORMS

The proposed Aviation Consumer Protection framework represents a significant change for the sector, with airports included for the first time in a national consumer protection regime.

The AAA has played a central role in shaping the framework, advocating for a model that aligns accountability with control across airlines, airports and third parties.

A key outcome has been securing a proportionate approach for smaller airports, with the Government confirming an exemption for airports under one million passengers per annum. This outcome reflects the AAA's consistent advocacy to ensure smaller airports are not subject to disproportionate regulatory burden.





ADVANCING BORDER MODERNISATION AND SEAMLESS TRAVEL

The AAA has played an active role in advancing the modernisation of Australia's international border, supporting more seamless and efficient passenger journeys.

Through engagement with Government and industry, the AAA has advocated for digital processing, biometrics and streamlined border systems to improve the passenger experience and support future growth in international travel. This includes the digitisation of the Incoming Passenger Card, with trials expanded across Brisbane and Sydney airports.

This work has been reinforced by extensive national media coverage, with the AAA leading public discussion on faster, technology-enabled border processing and highlighting strong community support for reform.

KEEPING REGIONAL AUSTRALIA CONNECTED

Supporting a sustainable future for regional aviation has remained a core focus, particularly in response to ongoing market pressures and the collapse of Rex Airlines.

We played a key role in advocating for affected communities, helping secure the establishment of a more than $5 million government support fund for impacted regional and remote airports.

The AAA has also been a leading voice in national and regional media, highlighting the impact on communities and the need for financially sustainable policy solutions.

Engagement has continued with Government and inquiries on regional airfares, competition and airport sustainability, including the Productivity Commission's review into regional airfare determinants.

A comprehensive national survey of regional airports also highlighted that most operate at a loss, providing a strong evidence base to support advocacy and reinforce the critical role airports play in connectivity, healthcare access and regional economies.

Despite this progress, there remains no overarching national framework to secure the long-term financial sustainability of regional aviation. The AAA continues to advocate for coordinated national action to secure the future of regional connectivity.







SECURITY AND CYBER REFORM

The AAA has continued to advocate on transport security reforms, including perimeter security, to ensure a risk-based and proportionate approach that minimises regulatory burden where possible.

The AAA has also engaged on emerging cyber security obligations, advocating for alignment with international frameworks, including ICAO requirements, while supporting practical implementation across the sector.

A key focus has been on implementation pathways that recognise the diversity of airport operating models while still achieving strong security outcomes and avoiding unnecessary cost impacts.

The AAA has also supported members through these issues with forums and webinars which have also facilitated cross-sector collaboration and providing practical guidance, facilitating collaboration, and enabling direct engagement with regulators.

FUEL SECURITY AND AVIATION SUSTAINABILITY

Fuel security has emerged as a critical issue for the aviation sector. The AAA has been actively engaged in national discussions with government and industry to ensure aviation is recognised and prioritised within national fuel security settings.

The AAA has played a central coordination role during a period of heightened uncertainty, ensuring real-time industry insights are reflected in national discussions.

In parallel, the AAA has continued to support the sector's transition to net zero emissions through engagement with the Jet Zero Council and cross-industry partners.

A key focus has been advocating for a nationally consistent and credible approach to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), including addressing policy, accounting and supply chain barriers to support investment and uptake.

The AAA is also working with members to strengthen industry coordination and advocacy on SAF, recognising the need for a clear, unified position as Australia moves toward implementation.

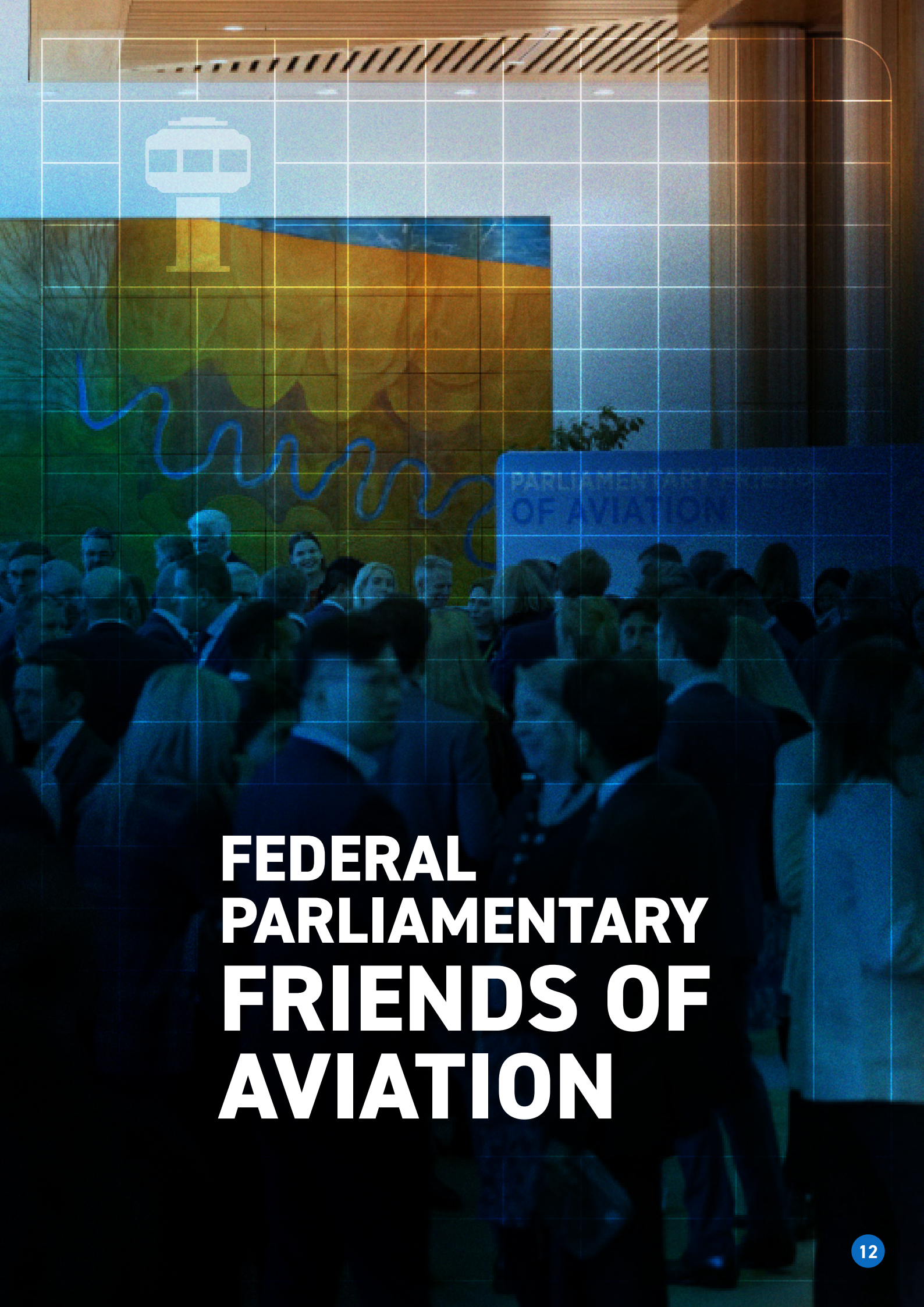
IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY IN AVIATION

The AAA has been closely engaged with Government on the development of aviation-specific disability standards, ensuring airport experience is reflected in reforms that will have significant operational and customer impacts.

This has included coordinating input from airports across the country and providing practical insight into what will work in real airport environments. A key focus has been ensuring the standards are workable and scalable across airports of different sizes and operating models.

The AAA has also consistently advocated for a clear delineation of responsibilities across the aviation ecosystem, recognising the shared role of airports, airlines and service providers in improving accessibility outcomes.





FEDERAL PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF AVIATION

STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT

The AAA led the establishment of the Parliamentary Friends of Aviation Group in October, strengthening engagement between the aviation sector and Federal Parliament.

Developed over an extended period, the Group provides a non-partisan forum for parliamentarians to engage directly with industry. The AAA played a central role in its development and now serves as Secretariat.

Formed in collaboration with A4ANZ, RAAA and BARA, the Group represents more than 340 airports, 13 domestic airlines and over 40 international carriers, supporting more than 100 million passenger movements each year.

The launch at Parliament House brought together more than 200 guests, including Members of Parliament and industry leaders, and featured an address from Minister Catherine King.

The initiative reinforces the AAA's position as a trusted voice in Canberra and supports ongoing engagement across the political spectrum.

KEY PRIORITIES OF THE GROUP INCLUDE:

- Seamless and efficient passenger journeys
- Improved accessibility and inclusion
- Regional connectivity and economic development
- Net zero aviation pathways
- Consumer experience and service







BRINGING THE AIRPORT COMMUNITY TOGETHER

AAA EVENTS

The AAA proudly delivers a dynamic calendar of events each year, designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and professional growth across the aviation sector.

From our flagship National Conference to targeted technical forums, these events offer valuable opportunities for members to connect, exchange insights, and help shape the future of Australia's airport network.

A standout on the calendar is the AAA National Conference and Industry Expo, drawing more than 860 delegates from across the Asia-Pacific, including airport leaders, government representatives, and industry experts. The event also hosts the National Airport Industry Awards, celebrating outstanding achievement and leadership across the sector.

The AAA National Conference and Industry Expo once again brought the Women in Airports Forum into the official proceedings as day one of this keystone event, further highlighting and advancing this initiative within our industry.

Other major events include the Airport Retail and Commercial Forum, Pavements and Lighting Forum, OPSWAP Forum, and Parliamentary Friends of Aviation — each tailored to meet the needs of our diverse membership.

We were proud to welcome hundreds of corporate members as exhibitors and partners across our extensive calendar of events, each playing a vital role in creating vibrant, engaging, and high-impact experiences for attendees.

Their contributions enhance the quality and relevance of every event, offering attendees meaningful opportunities to explore new products, services, and collaborations.

Throughout the year, the AAA also hosts regular state division meetings, webinars and training sessions, keeping members informed, engaged, and connected at every level.

These events not only support professional development but also strengthen the shared sense of purpose within our airport community.

We look forward to welcoming you at an upcoming event. View our 2026 events calendar **HERE.**



AAA EVENTS CALENDAR



PAVEMENTS AND LIGHTING FORUM
MAY 2025



GROUND TRANSPORT FORUM
JULY 2025



RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL FORUM
JULY 2025



WA RESOURCES FORUM
AUGUST 2025



AIRPORT SAFETY AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT FORUM
MAY 2025



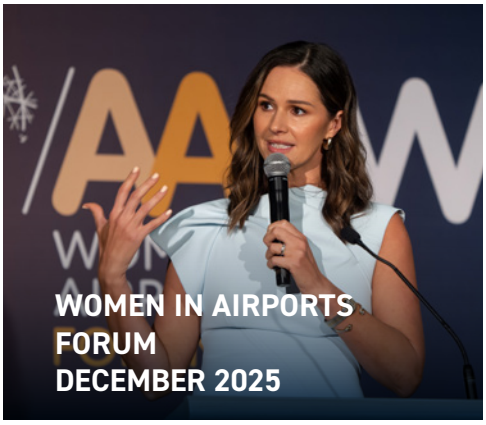
ROUND 2 STATE DIVISION MEETINGS
AUGUST 2025



AIRPORT SAFETY WEEK
OCTOBER 2025



PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF AVIATION
OCTOBER 2025



WOMEN IN AIRPORTS FORUM
DECEMBER 2025



NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND INDUSTRY EXPO
DECEMBER 2025



NATIONAL AIRPORT INDUSTRY AWARDS
DECEMBER 2025



ROUND ONE STATE DIVISION MEETINGS
MARCH 2026



OPS SWAP FORUM
MAY 2026

AIRPORT ALERT

Stay connected and informed with Airport Alert, the AAA's weekly digital newsletter delivering the latest industry news, job opportunities and upcoming events.

Our regular updates provide practical insights and opportunities to connect with peers, helping you stay current and engaged with developments across the airport sector.

Not receiving Airport Alert? Sign up via the **ONLINE FORM** and check your security filters to ensure you never miss an update.





MEMBER RESOURCES

AAA members have exclusive access to a wide range of resources designed to support your work including Airport Practice Notes, templates, tool kits, fact sheets and more.

To explore member resources, visit the AAA website, select 'Member Resources' and follow the prompts to log in.

You can also access the Member Directory via the link provided. If you have any questions, the AAA team is here to help.

Please contact the membership team at **membership@airports.asn.au**.

MEMBER WEBINAR SERIES RETURNS

Exclusive member webinars are returning, providing new opportunities to connect, learn and stay informed.

Upcoming sessions include ***Regional Airport Connect*** and ***Your AAA Membership: Voice, Value and Connection***, with further topics in development.

In March, members also came together for a special session marking International Women's Day. Select webinars are available to watch on demand. More webinars will be announced soon.

We also welcome and value member input. If you have a topic or subject matter idea, or you would like to present, please contact us at **membership@airports.asn.au**.

DEFENCE PAYMENTS AND RECREATIONAL AVIATION AUSTRALIA

Simplify your operations. Through our exclusive agreement with the Department of Defence, AAA members can benefit from the AAA managing and streamlining Defence landings at their airports. In addition to facilitating payments, the AAA continues to advocate on behalf of airports by strengthening industry engagement with Defence to support the important work they do.

Members also gain access to the Recreational Aviation Australia (RAAus) portal, making billing for general aviation faster and easier. To submit an application, click **HERE**.

JOB LISTINGS

AAA members can advertise job vacancies on our website at no cost for up to two weeks.

It's a simple way to reach a targeted aviation audience and connect with the right candidates.

Members can also explore current listings to find their next career opportunity.

To advertise a role or view available positions, click **HERE**.

EDUCATION

The AAA's online education courses support professional capability across a wide range of airport operations roles and all content aligns with Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASR Part 139), the Manual of Standards (MOS 139), and Advisory Circular AC139.

Delivered through our flexible learning management system, courses are accessible on mobile and desktop devices, enabling anytime, anywhere learning. Recent platform improvements have enhanced usability, with new courses launched as part of this upgrade.

Explore current courses on the AAA education website **HERE**. For bulk course purchases, contact the education team at **education@airports.asn.au**.

COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

Our policy and advocacy team champions the airport sector at every level of government — and we want you alongside us.

Airport members are invited to join these forums that help shape the projects, policies, and initiatives that will define the future of our airport industry. Find out more **HERE**. Or contact the team at **info@airports.asn.au.**

Our current committees and working groups that are open to AAA airport members include:

- Aerodrome Operational Safety & Wildlife Hazard Working Group
- Customer Experience Working Group
- Emergency Management Working Group
- Emerging Airport Leaders Committee
- Major Airport Security Committee
- Mid-sized Airport CEO Forum
- Regional Airports Working Group
- Regional Airport Security Committee
- Sustainability Working Group
- Women in Airports Committee
- Major Airport Planning Committee
- Major Airport Corporate Affairs Committee
- Major Airport CEO Forum
- Major Airport Economic Regulation Working Group

NEW REGIONAL AIRPORTS COMMITTEE

Following feedback from the 2025 Member Survey, the AAA has launched a new Regional Airports Committee.

This forum has been created to provide regional and remote airports with a dedicated platform to raise key issues, share experiences and practical insights, and help shape and strengthen the AAA's advocacy on matters affecting regional and remote airports.

If you would like to join, sign up via the **ONLINE FORM**.

CORPORATE MEMBERS ADVISORY PANEL

AAA corporate members are invited to join the Corporate Members Advisory Panel (CMAP) our forum for driving business connections and growing opportunities across the sector.

In recent years, CMAP has guided the AAA's approach to building partnerships and strengthening knowledge sharing across the industry.

It's your chance to connect with industry leaders, build lasting partnerships, and help propel aviation forward. Sign up via the **ONLINE FORM**.

CONNECT WITH THE AAA



australian-airports-association



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