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MEDIA RELEASE

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AVIATION INDUSTRY TREATED LIKE MUSHROOMS BY MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

The Minister for Transport is treating the aviation industry like mushrooms on important aviation safety and security changes.

The Senate Transport Committee inquiring into two important bills has heard a litany of ineptitude when it comes to industry consultation.

Key industry players have slammed the Government's processes and the draft legislation. The Australian Airports Association submitted that the security bill is a *'convoluted document'* and advised the Committee that it *'requires full industry consultation and a rework'*.

Airports have a key role in implementing aviation security measures and know what will work, but they have been kept in the dark on the details.

Australians have heard a lot of talk from the Minister about reforming aviation security, but there has been little productive dialogue with the industry.

On the safety regulation changes like a system of demerit points for breaches of safety rules, the Department could not say why they did not go through the usual consultation process for major reforms.

The Department is asking the Parliament to sign off on the changes and then it will go and talk to the industry. It is the wrong way around.

The new safety compliance measures were recommended by the CASA Chairman after a private inquiry and selectively adopted by the Minister, with no public input or formal canvassing of industry views.

The Department continues to refuse to release the report by the CASA Chairman. The Minister must do this to enable public scrutiny of which recommendations he rejected and why.

The Senate hearings have exposed the Minister's inability to manage effective change in transport.

The reforms are necessary, but the industry must not be kept in the dark. The industry must have access to the details before they become law and directly influence aviation safety and security.

The aviation industry knows it needs reform and stands willing to help but the Minister just keeps botching it through the legislation.

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