

MAAA Vice President's report – May 2025

I have the benefit of receiving Carl's report before putting pen to paper. I am in full agreement with Carl's report so I won't bother repeating most of what he has already alluded to.

If anything, Carl has greatly understated the progress made over the last 12 months of dealing with CASA. The depth and breadth of relationships with senior management of CASA provides us with unprecedented access to raise issues and create solutions for the benefit of our members,

The achievement of the MAAA General Instrument for area approvals is undoubtedly the greatest achievement in the last 10 years and makes it so much easier for our members to enjoy privileges similar to those enjoyed prior to 2017 when CASA released the first directive limiting model aircraft to 400 feet.

The area approval process will undoubtedly be subject to ongoing tweaks and improvements but Carl and Rhyll have bedded down the new process and approvals are flowing out with unprecedented efficiency. The relevant resources and knowledge base will continue to develop with a view to making it much easier for our clubs and ordinary members to prepare their applications.

That said, the challenges of dealing with CASA will undoubtedly continue in different ways. CASA have announced their intention to cease issuing rolling safety directives and undertake a rewrite of Part 101 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations. Recent drafting efforts by CASA make it clear their focus and understanding is limited to RPAS operations and not model aircraft. We will need to have a clear plan to make sure that any rewrite of Part 101 does not adversely impact upon our members (either intentionally or inadvertently).

As I reflect on the past year, there has certainly been a significant change in the operation of the Executive (and Council). Carl has brought a different focus, management style, and panache to the role. Carl and I have certainly disagreed on some topics but I like to think that this has resulted in hybrid vigour and better outcomes for the MAAA membership.

Gary continues to be a loyal servant of the MAAA and I am grateful to see him renominate for the role of Treasurer. His handling of finances is impeccable but I equally value the role Gary takes in providing wise counsel on all issues that come before the Executive.

As I am sure all members of Council will agree that Rhyll continues to make an outstanding contribution to the MAAA. She handles all matters with good spirits and grinds away earnestly to provide outstanding service to our members. I'm amazed at what Rhyll can achieve in what are a limited number of hours each week – responding to members queries, timely meeting notices and minutes, production of a professional looking wingspan magazine and handling area approvals with aplomb.

I look forward to the year ahead and working with the Executive and Council to continue to serve our members.

Michael Hobson
MAAA Vice President