

Meeting with Minister Meager Tuesday August 4th 2026

Accompanied by Vice President Richard Small and Executive Officer Jacinda Johnston, I met with Minister Meager on the 4th of August.

The trigger for the meeting was the opportunity to introduce Jacinda to the Minister and this gave us a forum to discuss the RUP and the lack of inclusion of the Sport and Recreation rules in the update program. Carolina Durrant from MCERT was in attendance at the meeting.

The Minister was provided with comprehensive briefing notes by NZAF members and had clearly read them and had a good grasp of the issues.

We invited NZHGPA to also provide written examples of where the current rules don't fit. This was done to strengthen our position in terms of representing the sector as a whole. For clarity, NZHGPA were not present at the meeting.

We got a very good hearing and the Minister asked searching questions and acknowledged the difficulties that we face. We discussed the potential synergies between pilot certification and the Part 61 RUP project and his expectation that members would make submissions where appropriate under Part 61 and the scoping project being led by David Morgan.

The Minister concluded the meeting by giving us a commitment to look at changing a short list of rule sections that were provided to us by member organisations and NZHGPA.

He has tasked the aviation team at MCERT with looking at what can be legally done quite quickly in terms of changing this specific list of rules without disturbing the current RUP scope. There are no guarantees, but having a ministerial push to make some changes gives us some hope and is something we have rarely if ever had previously.

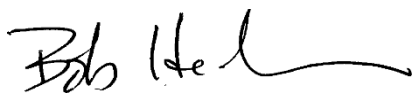
He is clearly not going to direct CAA to look at a full inclusion of Sport and Recreation rules in the current RUP. He does not want to add to their workload in a way that will impact the reasonably timely delivery of the RUP in its current form. He does, however recognise the need for change and the benefits that changes will achieve. We are going to have to wait until it is timely to look at broader rule changes.

He also agrees that we need to be looking at overseas initiatives and establishing best practice for NZ sport and recreation in the longer term, including looking at the best parts of the FAA MOSAIC program and its EASA equivalent.

He reiterated that his door is open to us and that we are able to reach out to him to discuss any issues that we have.

Following the meeting with the Minister we had a meeting with Siobhan Routledge and Carolina Durrant, our two key contacts on aviation regulation within MCERT. It was good to have had Caro in the meeting with the Minister as she gained an appreciation of the issues we face as a group as well as the Minister's wishes to make some changes in the short term, and she is keen to get our input when it comes to drafting any rule changes that prove to be do-able out of this process. That in itself is refreshing.

I acknowledge that this was not a silver bullet outcome, but it was positive progress and it was clearly important to Minister Meager that he ensure engagement occurs across the whole aviation sector to update the 30-year old rules.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Henderson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Henderson
President, NZAF