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20th November 2012.

Mr Kini Kolokesa
ATS Manager,
Airports Fiji Limited.

Mr Blair Cowles
Manager Oceanic
Airways New Zealand,

Dear Kini and Blair,

Re Australian Transport Safety Bureau Report – Ditching VH-NGA

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau recently finalised a report on the events leading the ditching of VH-NGA a Westwind 1124A in the waters south west of Norfolk Island Airport on the 18th November 2009. The report is being further scrutinised in an Australian Senate committee hearing which is currently being conducted. Various government departments are being invited to appear before the hearing to expand on the information contained in the report.

Whilst the report did not draw any conclusion regarding the performance of the Air Navigation Service Providers involved, it does provide an excellent platform for understanding the criticality of timely and accurate in-flight information and the consequences of this information for flight crew and successful flight management. It also provides an opportunity to review our procedures and practices in light of the reported sequence of events which lead to this accident.

Given our common interest in Oceanic ATM in the South Pacific, I have provided a link to the ATSB report for your consideration.

http://www.atsb.gov.au/publications/investigation_reports/2009/aair/ao-2009-072.aspx

I would be interested in any observations or suggestions you may draw from the report.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Scott
Manager Upper Airspace,
Brisbane