



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

**SENATE RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT  
REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

30 April 2013

**Inquiry into Aviation Accident Investigations**

**INTERIM REPORT**

On 13 September 2012, the Senate agreed that the following matters be referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee for inquiry and report by 29 November 2012:

- (a) the findings of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau into the ditching of VH-NGA Westwind II, operated by Pel-Air Aviation Pty Ltd, in the ocean near Norfolk Island airport on 18 November 2009;
- (b) the nature of, and protocols involved in, communications between agencies and directly interested parties in an aviation accident investigation and the reporting process;
- (c) the mechanisms in place to ensure recommendations from aviation accident investigations are implemented in a timely manner; and
- (d) any related matters.

The current reporting date is 30 April 2013.

The committee intends to present the final report by Thursday, 23 May 2013 which would allow it to fully consider the evidence and conclude its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

**Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan**  
**Chair**