Summary of consultation on Draft CAAP 166-01 v4.2 - Operations in the vicinity of non-controlled aerodromes

CASA has consulted extensively on the appropriate frequency to use at low-level in Class G airspace. Risks associated with operations in the vicinity of non-controlled aerodromes that were not published on an aeronautical chart were looked at. This consultation asked people to comment on the final advice published in CAAP 166-01 v4.2. The consultation has now closed, and a summary of the feedback is provided below.

About this consultation

Prior to this consultation, a number of known issues with the frequency used at low level in Class G airspace were:

* a wide variety of views in the aviation community about which frequency to use and when in low-level Class G airspace
* a risk associated with aerodromes not published on an aeronautical chart
* pilots wanted a comprehensive education campaign to confirm what frequency to use.

The significant change in the CAAP recommends that pilots should listen and broadcast, as necessary, on the Area VHF in all Class G airspace other than when in the vicinity of an aerodrome, or within a Broadcast Area, published on an aeronautical chart.

However, a pilot has the discretion to use the most appropriate frequency to ensure safe operations which may be MULTICOM 126.7 MHz. In these circumstances pilots are recommended to monitor the Area VHF as well.

Respondents were requested to confirm that the CAAP correctly reflects the policy and to not comment on the policy.

The CAAP provides additional guidance to pilots on the changes published in the Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) becoming effective on 28 February 2019.

Respondents

In total, there were 18 respondents to the CAAP consultation. Fourteen of the respondents consented to having their responses being made public, three requested their submissions be confidential and one response was from a CASA officer.

Four respondents identified themselves as representing an aviation organisation, with 14 respondents identifying as having no organisation affiliation.

Key feedback

Five respondents agreed with the CAAP and commented that it provided pilots with more flexibility. They acknowledged that MULTICOM for use at an aerodrome might be appropriate and that it was already in use. A further five respondents disagreed with the CAAP and commented that the change was not needed. They indicated that the current requirement for use of Area VHF at uncharted aerodromes was appropriate, or that use of 126.7 MHZ should be required for all non-controlled aerodromes, whether published or not.

Overall, respondents provided general comments on improvements to the wording in the CAAP which have been reviewed, taken into consideration and incorporated, where appropriate.

Next steps

The revised CAAP 166-01 v4.2 has been published to coincide with the AIP amendments coming into effect on 28 February 2019. Additional educational material has been published in the form of a 'Radio Procedures in Non-Controlled Airspace' booklet. The Visual Flight Rules Guide (VFRG) and its associated website (<http://vfrg.casa.gov.au/> ) will also be updated to reflect the new advice.

Additionally, Airservices Australia is making cartographic changes to aeronautical charts effective from 23 May 2019. These changes will see all ALA's that have a four-letter ICAO designator (e.g. YADY) being displayed on the VFR charts (VTC and VNC) with WAC charts being progressively updated. An AIC will be published in advance of the change to provide further detail.