



## Speech

His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd)

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

*International Air Transport Association Annual General Meeting*

*Monday, 4 June 2018, 5 minutes*

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*I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the **Gadigal People of the Eora Nation** and pay my respects to their elders, past and present, and to elders from other communities who may be with us today.*

- **Mr Alexandre de Juniac**  
(Director General and CEO, International Air Transport Association)
- **Mr Alan Joyce AC**  
(CEO and Managing Director, QANTAS Group)
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning.

It is a pleasure to be here at the International Air Transport Association's 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Today over 100,000 flights will take off around the world.

Some 100 million passengers will travel to new destinations for business, to meet friends and family, to study in another country, for all kinds of reasons.

15,000 tonnes of air cargo worth a staggering \$6.4 trillion will be transported across the globe.

And directly or indirectly 63 million people will get up and go to work to make all this possible.

And while this amazing movement of people, goods and services happens—it won't make the news and people won't stop in the street and marvel at what is going on in the skies above them—it will be just another day, business and life as usual!

[PAUSE]

Now, I don't mention these statistics to inform you, I am sure you are all familiar with them.

I mention them to make the point that, although largely taken for granted, international air transport has revolutionised our world.

When we think of inventions that have changed the course of history and human development—the wheel, printing press, steam engine, electricity, and the Internet—the airplane flies high among them.

Air travel has transformed the way we live.

It brings people and cultures together like never before.

It is the wind beneath the wings of globalisation, economic growth, development and opportunity.

For all of us, our connectedness, our prosperity and the possibilities of the future owe so much to aviation.

And behind all this stands you, the world's airlines.

You are stewards of this revolution.

Your duty is to:

- Ensure the continued safety, growth, and sustainability of aviation.
- And ensure its enormous benefits continue—for generations to come.

These are great responsibilities.

And I know you have much to consider over the next few days.

From:

- Priority number one, safety and maintaining the industry's excellent record;
- To improving sustainability and the carbon offsets to combat climate change;
- Remaining vigilant against security and terrorist threats;
- Fighting human trafficking;
- Improving infrastructure to match growth and demand;
- And of course remaining competitive and financially viable —an industry that is not profitable serves no-ones interests.

These are the things that underpin aviation around the world.

The things we must get right in the interests of the millions of people for whom aviation is the key to prosperity and a better quality of life.

*[Governor-General—aviation industry board experience observations as appropriate]*

[PAUSE]

You say you are in the ‘business of freedom’.

And I do not disagree.

It isn’t freedom in the military sense.

But it’s freedom nonetheless.

Freedom of opportunity, of movement, of trade, of fellowship.

Freedom to contribute to, and be part of, everything our world has to offer.

This freedom, this aviation revolution is extraordinary on so many levels.

We should stop and marvel at it more often than we do.

Today, in this room, we are definitely taking time to do just that.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Australia.

—ends—

(Words—505 approx)