



TWU right to demand action

Geoffrey Thomas

Aviation Editor

The Transport Workers Union's call to ban AirAsia Indonesia flying into Australia until there is full disclosure over the cause of the crash of Flight QZ8501 should be heeded.

It is not good enough to deny the flying public, who have to make decisions about their safety every day, access to the preliminary crash report.

It may well be the report, which was privately circulated last week, will clear AirAsia Indonesia and point the finger at the plane, in which case Indonesia does its airline a great disservice.

But TWU Federal secretary Tony Sheldon is right to question the crash cause and Indonesia's reluctance to make the findings public. It is significant our regulator the Civil Aviation Safety Authority has the airline under increased surveillance, but one senses its hands are tied by political constraints.

The union is also right to be concerned about Indonesian aviation after the latest audit by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

In that audit of Indonesia's oversight of its airlines and aviation infrastructure, it scored well below the global average in compliance of international standards.

The organisation, which is a United Nations body, audits every country in eight categories.

Indonesia scored from 17 per cent to 61 per cent for compliance — with the average just 33 per cent. Indonesia has been below world standard for many years.

If it wants to be taken seriously in the global aviation community, it must be more transparent.



Concern: TWU Federal secretary Tony Sheldon.