

Silver City Recreational Aircraft Club Inc.

Email slvercityrac@outlook.com.au



Open letter - Nationals Cancellation

As part of the planning and organization of this event insurance coverage for the event was one of our early priorities. Initial enquires made it apparent that this was not going to be a straight forward process. ASRA gave the Silver City Recreational Aircraft Club (SCRAC) assurances that they would support this endeavor in all ways possible and they stayed with their word.

Our plan for the event outlined a back to basics event which would reflect what goes on in the bush every other day. BBQs, a few beers, guitars and of course a campfire. As far as the flying was concerned ASRA's requirement that an events day be held to test our skills and have some fun with our flying was also going to be a continuing tradition.

Several weeks ago we were advised that the flying events could not proceed due to the fact that insurance would not be possible at all to cover ASRA or the SCRAC. We were forced to take the flying events off the schedule but were still confident coverage would be available for the social and infrastructure aspects of the function. As ASRA has already explained, despite a significant amount of time going into the process this was refused by in excess of 20 insurers.

It is my understanding that for events such as this, insurers wanted detailed plans which including security plans and personnel, event directors on site, contractors who are self-insured and authorized food preparation requirements. Due to budget and person power we could not comply with these requirements.

Un-regulated campfires, camping on site with alcohol involved as well as many other activities which would reasonably be expected to form part of this event were just not within the scope of any form of insurance that could be obtained..

This journey has highlighted the risk previous events have unknowingly carried and by luck there were no incidents in previous years. This issue needs to be addressed by ASRA into the future and anyone who is conducting anything which resembles an event will need to look seriously at their liability.

We are extremely disappointed at the outcome, however, we were not prepared to wear the risk personally or by the club. We have now begun the significant task of unwinding and apologizing to other community groups and individuals who were coming together for the Nationals.

On the basis of a "fly-in", I extend a warm invitation to members of ASRA, the dates stand. Please email the club silvercityrac@outlook.com for details.

Kind regards,

Warwick Merton
President
SCRAC
12th March 2019