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Patrick Hockey
Flightfree Australia
8 Smeaton Road
Clunes, Victoria
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Dear Patrick,

Thank you for your considered letter expressing feedback on CSIRO's Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Roadmap (the Roadmap).

CSIRO is committed to working collaboratively with industry and government to solve Australia's greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. The energy transition to net zero emissions is certainly one of the most critical challenges that we face today. As you know, reducing emissions in the aviation sector is particularly difficult.

As noted in the Roadmap (p11), reducing commercial aviation emissions will require a range of options. These include efficiency improvements, new propulsion technologies (such as battery-electric and hydrogen-powered aeroplanes), high-integrity carbon offsets, and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF). It also notes that "flight alternatives" such as high-speed rail and video conferencing can play a role.

However, the analysis in the Roadmap is limited in scope to three main areas: an analysis of Australian feedstock availability for SAF production, a techno-economic analysis of production pathways for SAF in Australia, and a qualitative assessment of the challenges for feedstock collection and SAF production in Australia. The analysis draws upon credible, independent, international estimates for the decarbonisation potential of different SAF pathways, including assessments by organisations such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB), the European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC).

The Roadmap does not consider the implications of a constraint to the supply of jet fuel or to commercial flights themselves. To address this comprehensively would require a detailed analysis of the benefits and costs associated with such a reduction, which was beyond the scope of the Roadmap.

We acknowledge the points you've raised, and it's notable that some elements of your feedback coincide with findings within the Roadmap. While we stand by our analysis, we recognise the complexity and urgency of the issue at hand. Once again, thank you for your thoughtful engagement with this important topic.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Rose
Executive Director, Future Industries
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