



5 May 2024

Department of Home Affairs

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Justification to include Aeroplane Pilots (231111) in the Core Skills Occupation List

Established in 1994, AERLINK’s Parent Company, HEVILIFT Group, is a leading Fixed and Rotary Wing Aviation services company providing turnkey charter solutions services in the Asia-Pacific region for transportation of personnel and equipment. Our roles include Oil & Gas Industry Support, Mining and Exploration Support, and Search and Rescue in diverse environments. More information about us is available on our website: -http://www.HEVILIFT.com and https://www.aerlink.au/.

HEVILIFT Board of Directors provided a clear mandate to grow AERLINK business in Australia, which mainly focuses on the resources sector like Mining, Oil and gas companies. AERLINK’s current customers are BHP, RIO TINTO, Covalent, Thiess, Orrabanda, Goldfields and Chinova to name a few. AERLINK also supports short notice charters, rescue responses, provision of food to remote regional airstrips servicing regional businesses and communities.

AERLINK currently operates ATR 42/72 aircraft; we are the only company in Australia using this type of aircraft in operation. AERLINK currently employs a total of 102 employees (and expanding) across 4 bases in Australia.

Below is AERLIK current and forecast Fleet Size and pilot headcount.

	Fleet	Total Employees	Current Pilot	Pilot Requirements	Pilot Vacancy
YTD April '24	9	82	28	35	7
End Dec'24	15	102		60	15
2025	20	150		60	20
2026	25	300		100	40

Currently AERLINK’s Pilot turnover is approximately 30% as most of them are attracted to join larger Airlines which predominantly fly bigger aircraft to larger cities.

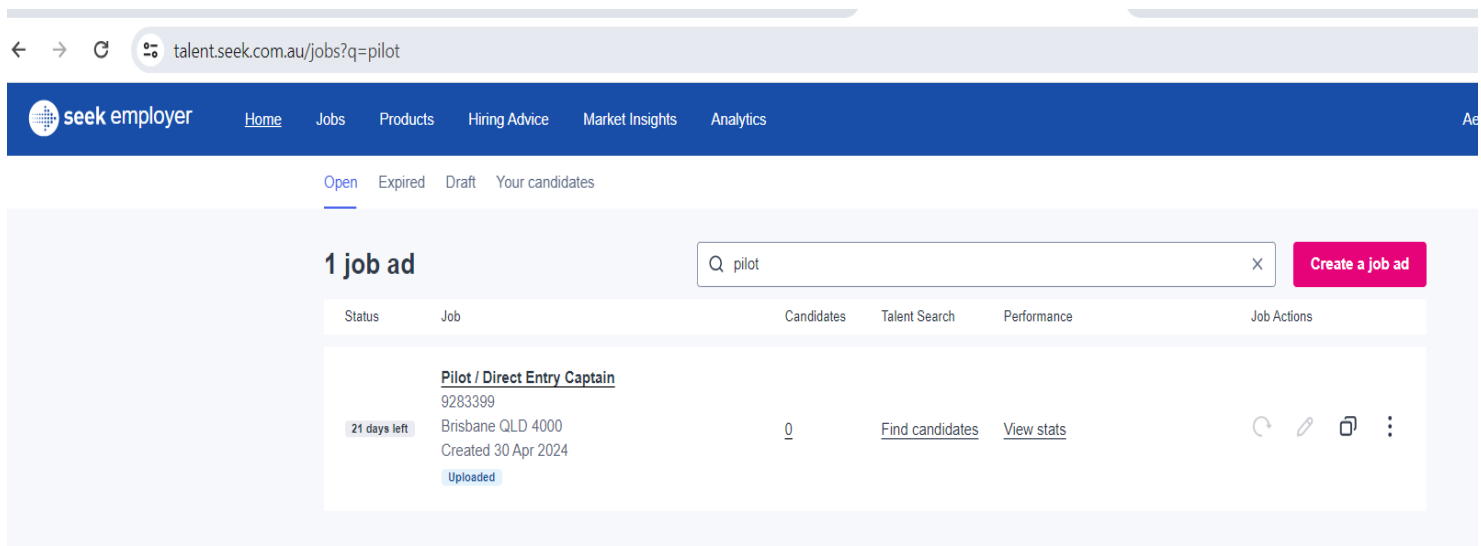
High resignations of experienced Captains within our ATR fleet pose other challenges such as the safety of operation, and delivery standard to our customers. As such we are dependent on experienced ATR Captains from overseas, 95% of the recent recruitment has been overseas based as we simply cannot find appropriately experienced pilots in the Australian domestic market.

It takes a minimum of 2 years within the company to be qualified as a Captain and currently we don't have any Australian pilots who have this level of experience to be a Captain on the ATR fleet requiring 2000 hours total time and 500 hours on the ATR type. Further, given the number of flying hours required to become a Captain, we have found that many of the people we do find for this role are older rather than younger, as it takes many years in the field to gain enough experience for this role.

AERLINK is committed to providing Australian First Officers with ATR Type Ratings for our operations. Currently 100 % of First Officers are employed within Australia. We are committed to training and upskilling Australian citizens and permanent residents to try to fill our shortages, and indeed our experienced Captains sourced from overseas play a role in transferring their skills to their less experienced Australian colleagues, but due to the ongoing drain of people to larger organizations, the large number of hours required to become a Captain being set, and the lack of people skilled/experienced in the ATR 42/72 aircraft there is going to be an ongoing need for us to continue to source pilots from overseas.

AERLINK has released numerous advertisements over last 12 months in Australia with Seek application for AR Captain based in Brisbane, Townsville, Perth and Mackay and we don't receive any application.

Below is current advertisement within no application received as to date :-



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL 'talent.seek.com.au/jobs?q=pilot'. The page header includes the 'seek employer' logo and navigation links: Home, Jobs, Products, Hiring Advice, Market Insights, and Analytics. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Open', 'Expired', 'Draft', and 'Your candidates'. The main content area displays '1 job ad' with a search bar containing 'pilot' and a 'Create a job ad' button. A table lists the job details:

Status	Job	Candidates	Talent Search	Performance	Job Actions
21 days left	Pilot / Direct Entry Captain 9283399 Brisbane QLD 4000 Created 30 Apr 2024 Uploaded	0	Find candidates	View stats	Refresh Edit Copy More

Below is the previous advertisement with no application received: -

8 job ads

Create

Status	Job	Candidates	Performance	Job Actions
Expired	<u>Pilot / Direct Entry Captain</u> 9252235 Auckland CBD Auckland NZ Created 19 Mar 2024 Uploaded	0	View stats	
Expired	<u>ATR Pilot</u> 9247632 Perth Airport WA 6105 Created 13 Mar 2024 Uploaded	0	View stats	
Expired	<u>Pilot / Direct Entry Captain</u> 9246514 Brisbane QLD 4000 Created 12 Mar 2024 Uploaded	0	View stats	
Expired	<u>ATR Pilot</u> 9178076 Perth Airport WA 6105 Created 8 Dec 2023 Uploaded	0	View stats	
Expired	<u>ATR Pilot</u> 9178071 Garbutt QLD 4814 Created 8 Dec 2023 Uploaded	0	View stats	
Expired	<u>ATR Pilot</u> 9153718 Mackay QLD 4740 Created 9 Nov 2023 Uploaded	0	View stats	
Expired	<u>ATR Pilot</u> 9089315 Garbutt QLD 4814 Created 28 Aug 2023 Uploaded	0	View stats	
	<u>ATR Pilot</u>			

For the above reasons we require the occupation of ANZSCO 231111 Aeroplane Pilot to remain on the Core Skills Occupation List, for sponsored foreign pilots to be allowed work in a Tier 1 city, and for a pathway to Permanent Residence if over 45 years old.

For further discussion please include myself and below key management personnel: -

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Your Sincerely

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