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Response: Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Undoubtable you are receiving numerous responses on the impact of RPAS usage. I would like to make several points for your consideration.

Firstly, the unlawful and dangerous use of sub-2Kg RPAS is evident throughout Australia. This can be observed by attending to populous beaches, parks and suburbia. A search on YouTube delivers hundreds of examples of reckless illegal use in Australia which is dramatically increasing with CASA's new regulation. It is clear that CASA has failed to act in a timely manner to control these new aircraft and as an attempt at self-preservation de-regulate to avoid the need to actually fulfil its mandate and keep the sky safe.

I am now continually dumbfounded at what some "registered" sub 2kg operators are doing to make money. This legislation is a complete failure and will lead to injuries. The previous commercial operator system provided CASA with assurance that the operators were competent and safe. The new system does the opposite.

When breaches are raised with CASA they discount the dangers and request that the complainant provide the evidence to prosecute breaches. It is akin to reporting a burglary to Police and the Police ask you to provide all evidence so they can charge the offenders.

The last concern I wish to raise is that of allowing the Recreation usage in almost any location. I am currently employed by a petroleum refinery. The refinery runs under strict safety protocols to ensure we do not have fires or explosions. Under the current laws recreational users (who won't have read the laws) are likely to fly into workplaces such as mine to 'have a look'. There are many areas



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which will have explosive atmospheres such as storage tanks as they are not air sealed. It is possible a RPAS might inadvertently ignite on of these petroleum storage tanks.

I strongly believe the deregulation is dangerous and should be repealed. Secondly, I believe there should be a requirement to undergo some training before being allowed to use a RPAS in a public place. Lastly Commercial operations should only be permitted by qualified and skilled operators which are certified by CASA.

Regards,

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