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12 July 2018

Committee Secretariat
Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Economics
RE: Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018 [Provisions]

Dear Committee Secretariat,

Australian Rocketry thanks you for your invitation to comment on the Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018 [Provisions].

Australian Rocketry is the leading provider of rocketry products in Australia. We have been importing, exporting, manufacturing and supplying rocketry motors and products including high power rockets for over 15 years. Our customers range from amateurs/hobbyists to educational institutions to commercial and Defence.

With the new Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018 proposed to cover all aspects of high power rocketry, Australian Rocketry would like to seek clarification on the impact to our non-commercial customers, specifically in the amateur/hobby and educational sectors.

High powered hobby rocketry already has a working model which is governed by strict regulations under Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998, Part 101.A, B, C and H. Launch sites are issued area approvals which dictate operational requirements including lateral and vertical limitations. Rocketry organisations such as the Australian Model Rocket Society Inc. (AMRS) operate under internationally recognised safety codes and risk assessments which assesses competency of individuals and permits access to varying classes of rockets and rocket motors capable of reaching altitudes approaching 100km.

Thanks to the systems in place with the AMRS, Australian Rocketry imports, exports and supplies a vast range and sizes of rocket motors to non-commercial high power rocket users. For clarity, possession, transport, storage and use of most high power rocket motors is governed by explosives regulators in each state and territory in Australia.

Australian Rocketry hosts an international event, Thunda Down Under (next proposed event is 18-21 April 2019 – <https://thunda2.com.au>) which will attract in excess of 350 high power rocketry users from around the globe with over 1500 anticipated rocket launches and 4000 spectators over the course of the event. In addition, Thunda Down Under 2019 will be host to the inaugural Australian Universities Rocket Competition (AURC), run by the Australian Youth Aerospace Association. The AURC consists of teams of students who will build high power rockets to fly payloads to specific altitudes. It is anticipated that teams from Australian and New Zealand will participate with some of those teams later entering a similar challenge in the USA.

Whilst the Thunda Down Under 2019 event is unlikely to be affected by the proposed Bill, future events may be. The proposed Bill appears to have been drafted for commercial activities and indicates that a



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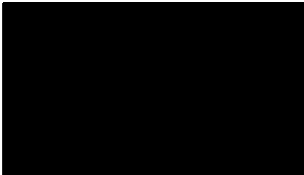
'person' must obtain a High Power Rocket License to operate a high power rocket. Under current conditions, high power rocket activities fall under the domain of the host club, in the case of Thunda Down Under 2019, the Queensland Rocketry Society Inc. who hold the CASA issued instrument of approval.

Australian Rocketry is seeking clarity, not just for Thunda Down Under 2019, but all launches held in Australia on the following items:

1. The requirements for obtaining a High Power Rocket permit and how this will affect both Australian nationals and foreigners for non-commercial activities.
2. An extended definition for a High Power Rocket from below 100km that may include weight, power and size etc. and any effects to existing and prospective customers using high power rockets that fall into such categories.

Australian Rocketry is available to discuss the above queries further and looks forward to working with the Senate Economic Legislation Committee to ensure all operators of high power rockets are able to do so in a fair and achievable manner.

Yours faithfully,



Blake Nikolic
Director
Australian Rocketry Pty Ltd