



July 2018

Mr Mark Fitt  
Committee Secretary  
Economics Legislation Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Electronic Submission via upload and [economics.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Fitt,

Sitael Australia would like to thank you for the invitation to provide a submission to the Senate Economic Legislation committee inquiry into the Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018 [Provisions].

Sitael Australia supports the Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018 [Provisions] overall and believes that it holistically updates the legislative framework in Australia to be broadly in line with other nation's space law, with many parts remaining unchanged.

Sitael Australia has the following comments on specific aspects of the proposed amendment:

1. The inclusion of launching from Australian aircraft or foreign aircraft in airspace over Australian territory is welcome, to update the Act in line with recent launch technology developments.
2. Division 5, Subsection 46G – “Debris Mitigation Strategy”. Sitael Australia supports the sustainable use of the space environment for all nations and organisations, with appropriate debris mitigation processes in place. Whilst the specifics of the strategy required will be incorporated in the rules, debris mitigation should:
  - a. Only address the payload portion, and not the launcher vehicle, adapter, fairing or any other element outside of the control of the payload provider
  - b. Any strategy imposed by the rules should be at the same level of those required by other major space fairing nations, to avoid discouraging Australian industry and Australian payloads from transferring to a more favourable jurisdiction
3. Division 6A, Subsections 48 (2) and (3) Paragraph 4 (a) – Sitael Australia supports the indicated minimum amount of insurance of \$100 million (a reduction from \$750 million, noting that a balance must be struck to encourage industry and activities against the Commonwealth taking on additional liability. However, this amount in practice could be further reduced to encourage industry growth, whilst not appreciably exposing the Commonwealth to further financial liability. Sitael Australia is not aware of any examples where the Commonwealth has previously been



required to exercise similar provisions under the current Act and been required to provide compensation.

4. The updated act in its current form does not address human spaceflight. Given the likelihood of suborbital tourism occurring in the next few years, Sitael Australia would suggest that the rules would need to address either a human spaceflight launch from Australia, as well as the more likely scenario of an Australian tourist launching on an overseas launch provider. Currently, they would likely be deemed an overseas payload and require a permit to travel, including potential debris mitigation strategy submission.

All further correspondence related to this submission can be addressed to:

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Yours Sincerely,

Mark Ramsey  
General Manager, Sitael Australia