

Re: Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft Levy) Bill 2020 and Civil Aviation Amendment (Unmanned Aircraft Levy Collection and Payment) Bill 2020.

To whom it may concern.

I am a commercial UAV operator holding a CASA issued Remote Pilot Licence. I am also the Chief Remote Pilot for my company which holds a CASA issued Remote Operator Certificate. I have been operating UAV's commercially for approximately five years and have approximately 600 flying hours with no incidents.

During my time of operating UAV's I have seen numerous changes in legislation which have made it very hard for licenced operators to compete on a level playing field with those who are not. The introduction of the excluded category being one of those changes. We are now seeing the introduction of more fees and charges by CASA. Some have said that the fees and charges are necessary in order to keep the industry safe and to allow CASA to conduct enforcement.

Whilst I agree that fees are necessary within any industry, I believe that charging commercial operators high fees is simply going to send some small operators to the wall. It is generally not the licenced commercial operators who are out there doing the wrong thing. These operators have spent considerable time and money to become licenced and understand their responsibilities.

I have seen numerous people flying UAV's who have not been complying with the current regulations. I can say, without a doubt, that these people are not licenced and have no intention of following the rules. These are the people who should be targeted not the licenced operators. I believe that the majority of these people will not register their equipment or be paying any fees. The burden will again be left up to those of us who are constantly doing the right thing.

Whilst I do believe there should be some form of registration for all UAV's, I respectfully submit that the fees should be the same for commercial purposes as it is for recreational purposes. I do not believe that there are any more costs involved for the regulator in registering a commercial UAV as opposed to a recreational machine. The fees charged should reflect the actual costs not simply a figure that is based on what the machine is used for.

Regards.