



July 2018

Senate Standing Committees on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to the Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018 [Provisions] Inquiry

Southern Launch would like to thank the Senate Estimates Committee for the invitation to submit a view on the Space Activities Amendment (Launches and Returns) Bill 2018.

The proposed update to the aging Space Activities Act 1998 has come at a much-needed time as Australian companies develop new, world leading space technologies, and Australia is poised to take a more prominent role in space access and exploration.

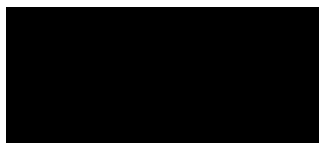
Southern Launch has the following comments in relation to the proposed Amendment:

General: We welcome the creation of the Rule set potentially allowing for more regular updates to the implementation of the Act as Australia and global forces prescribe. We caution that without seeing the Rule set, the specifics of the proposed changes are difficult to quantify.

Division 7, Section 48, Subsection 4: The new Act would seem to place the same \$100 million insurance requirement on the newly added high power rocket flight category as that for the launch or return of a space object through the creation of the single insurance mechanism. While we understand the intent is to simplify insurance requirements into a single subsection and reduce overall space object insurance, as written this update will potentially increase insurance requirements for high power rocket flight fivefold. Subsequently we believe the inclusion of high power rocket flights into this single insurance mechanism will stifle Australian research, development and manufacture of rocket technology, and ultimately result in the relocation of such activities to other countries with more reasoned insurance requirements.

We welcome further discussion on the development of the Act with the goal of creating an Australian environment that encourages and enables balanced investment across all aspects of space related technologies.

Yours sincerely



Lloyd Damp

CEO, Southern Launch