

Rural & Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Regulatory requirements and the safe use of remotely piloted aircraft and unmanned aerial systems
Airservices Australia**

Committee Question Number: 3

Question Number: 1

Division/Agency: Airservices Australia

Topic: Commercial RPAS Approvals

Proof Hansard Page: 13 (29 August 2017)

Senator O'Sullivan, Barry asked:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: All right. Could you take on notice, from me, the question: could you give us the statistics of the number of commercial drones you've allowed to operate in potential conflict space with the commercial aircraft within 40 kilometres of an airport over the last two years?

Dr Weaver: Yes, we can take that on notice.

Answer:

Airservices Australia only authorises commercial RPAS operations in controlled airspace when potential conflict with manned aircraft can be successfully managed. An estimated 75% of applications have required Airservices to modify the requested altitudes or timings to remove potential conflicts to manned operations.

If segregation solutions are not available to the controller the request is denied.

Commercial RPAS approvals since 2015:

- 2015 – 68
- 2016 – 60
- 2017 to 1 September – 42 approved, 38 in progress