

From the desk of Darcy Allen, Research Fellow

Email me at dallen@ipa.org.au

15 December 2016

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Regulatory requirements that impact on the safe use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems and associated systems.

Committee Secretary,

I refer to the above inquiry and provide a submission on behalf of the Institute of Public Affairs ('IPA') in the form of an enclosed paper: *The case for cutting red tape on drones*.

In relation to specific terms of reference of the present inquiry, our submission concerns:

- "a. current and future regulatory requirements that impact on the safe commercial and recreational use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and associated systems"; and
- "b. the existing industry and likely future social and economic impact of RPAS technology."

The central theme of the attached paper is that the regulation of drones should be approached from the regulatory principle of permissionless innovation—that innovation should be allowed by default. This approach sits in contrast to the precautionary principle, where regulators curtail the development of a technology based largely on hypothetical future harms.

The paper also examines the present state of drone regulation in Australia, including the recent changes by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to cut red tape on low-risk operations. These changes should be welcomed and encouraged because they represent a reasonable balance between community safety and the growth of the industry. We further recommend that CASA enables commercial operators to fly beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS)—a change that will open up new business models.

The IPA trusts that our contributions will be of assistance to the Committee. We would be pleased to present our submission at a public hearing, and answer any questions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions: in writing to Level 2, 410 Collins Street, Melbourne, 3000; by telephone on (03) 9600 4744; or by email to dallen@ipa.org.au.

Regards,

Darcy Allen
Research Fellow, Institute of Public Affairs.

Encl.