

## **AIAA Sydney Section Submission to the Inquiry into The Current State of Australia's Space Science & Industry Sector**

*Submitted by Lachlan Blackhall (Student and Young Professional Outreach and Education Officer) on behalf of the Sydney Section of the AIAA.*

*Authorised by the Committee of the Sydney Section of the AIAA.*

The AIAA (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics) is an international professional organisation mandated “To advance the arts, sciences, and technology of aeronautics and astronautics, and to promote the professionalism of those engaged in these pursuits.” The AIAA Sydney Section is a branch of the AIAA and one of only two international branches of the AIAA (the other being the Adelaide section) both of which are based in Australia. With respect to the terms of the inquiry:

*arguments for and against expanded Australian activity in space science and industry:*

It is our position that expanding Australia’s activity in space science and industry will result in a substantial increase in advanced science, technology, innovation and supporting services and industry. A substantial space science and industry presence in Australia will also act as a major motivation to Australian professionals and academics to work and study within this field in Australia, lowering the exodus (‘brain drain’) of Australians in this field. We believe strongly that Australia should be looking to expand the space science and industry sector now and in the future.

Our submission to this inquiry is designed to address the following terms:

*Australia's capabilities in space science, industry and education, including:*

*ii. areas in which there is currently little or no activity but that are within the technical and intellectual capacity of the country;*

It is our belief that the space science and industry sector within Australia revolves around the fulfilment of three critical elements:

1. Recognition – Australian society recognises the importance and significance of the space science and industry sector.
2. Aspiration – Australian society aspires to succeed within the space science and industry sector having recognised its importance and significance.
3. Opportunity – Australian society has the opportunity to exploit their aspiration and recognition through active participation in the space science and industry sector.

The stakeholders in this sector must find a way to fulfil the elements outlined above to achieve success. Organisation such as ours represent an opportunity to increase both the recognition and aspiration of society toward these space science and industry endeavours as well as making available educational materials, expertise, enthusiasm and support for the government pursuing a revitalised space science and industry agenda. It is our submission that an expansion of the space science and industry sector of Australia requires a substantial increase in the amount and forms of public awareness and space science education to complement increased activity in the space science and industry sector. We believe this will increase the public recognition and aspiration of this endeavour and in doing so stimulate the pursuit of opportunities to participate within this sector. Increased public recognition and aspiration also has the effect of increasing the status of those within the sector encouraging Australian’s to remain within the sector locally instead of pursuing international opportunities. Without opportunity aspiration cannot flourish but without aspiration

opportunities are unlikely to be pursued and thus the growth of the space science and industry sector will be unsustainable. Essentially recognition, aspiration and opportunity must be grown in unison and a strong emphasis on education, public awareness and an emphasis of the benefits of the space science and industry are crucial to its success. From this standpoint we strongly emphasise that the government should look to develop inspirational and aspirational space science education and public awareness, utilising the facilities and resources of educational, professional and industry organisations to complement and invigorate the growth of the space science and industry sector in Australia.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lachlan Blackhall', written in a cursive style.

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*Lachlan Blackhall*