

## Senate inquiry into the Defence Capability Assurance and Oversight Bill

### The Defence Capability Assurance Agency - Its use as an independent coordinator and investigator of UAP in Australia

Mr James Ferguson

#### Introduction:

Respected members of the Senate Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my insights and recommendations regarding the growing concerns surrounding Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) and their potential impact on flight security in Australia. As we navigate this complex and evolving field, it is imperative that we prioritize the safety and security of our airspace and the individuals who rely on it. The creation of The Defence Capability Assurance Agency will guarantee the rigorous oversight required to ensure that Australia is prepared to defend itself in any circumstances. In order to do this we must be prepared however, to place the safety of all ADF personnel in its highest regard, especially when it comes to Unidentified Aerial Phenomena.

#### Understanding UAP:

Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, commonly referred to as UAP or UFOs, represent a range of unexplained aerial observations reported by pilots, military personnel, and civilians worldwide. These phenomena raise important questions about the nature of aviation safety, technological advancements, and potential security threats.

#### Key Points:

**Safety of Airspace:** The primary concern when addressing UAPs is ensuring the safety of our airspace. While many UAP sightings can likely be attributed to natural or man-made phenomena, it is crucial to thoroughly investigate and differentiate between potentially disruptive or hazardous occurrences and those that pose no immediate threat.

**Data Collection and Analysis:** Establishing a dedicated and standardized reporting system for UAP encounters is paramount. This system should be accessible to pilots, air traffic controllers, military personnel, and civilians alike, promoting transparent data collection and sharing. Collaboration between government agencies, aviation industry stakeholders, and academic institutions will facilitate comprehensive analysis of UAP incidents.

**International Cooperation:** Given that UAP sightings are a global phenomenon, international cooperation is essential. Collaborating with other nations to share data, research findings, and potential threat assessments can help us better understand the nature of these phenomena and collectively develop strategies to address any potential security concerns. The United States has recently held an

National Security Subcommittee Hearing on unidentified anomalous phenomena (UAP). They found a plausible & credible threat to U.S. national security. Australia should follow the lead of our largest Ally in undertaking a review into a subject which the ADF has denied and failed to investigate appropriately since 1996.

**Technological Advancements:** Advancements in sensor technologies, including radar systems, infrared cameras, and satellite surveillance, can significantly contribute to the accurate identification and tracking of UAPs. Investing in joint research and development with our AUKUS partners in these areas will enhance our ability to assess UAPs' intentions, capabilities and threats to safe aviation in our wide open airspaces and encompassing seas.

**Public Awareness and Education:** Initiating public awareness campaigns and educational programs about UAPs and flight safety can help prevent unwarranted panic and misinformation. A well-informed public will be better equipped to understand and report UAP sightings accurately.

**Risk Assessment:** Establishing a thorough risk assessment framework is critical. Differentiating between potentially benign UAPs and those that could pose a security threat is crucial for informed decision-making and resource allocation. The current CASA reporting system is under utilised and lacking detail and investigative powers requiring scientific endeavour. For the ADF, this topic is a relevant and crucial Work Health & Safety matter which should not be brushed aside into the realm of ridicule and ignorance.

**Recommendations:**

**Government-Led Task Force:** Form a government-led task force composed of experts from the fields of aviation, aerospace, military, academia, and relevant agencies. This task force should collaborate to investigate UAP sightings, analyze data, and provide recommendations for policy and security measures. The Defence Capability Assurance Agency could be the perfect independent coordinator and investigator of these multi-domain anomalous phenomena.

**Standardized Reporting System:** Develop and implement a standardized reporting system that encourages pilots, air traffic controllers, and military personnel to report UAP encounters without fear of ridicule or professional repercussions.

**Research and Analysis:** Allocate funding for research institutions to conduct in-depth analyses of UAP incidents, with a focus on understanding flight safety implications and potential security threats.

**International Partnerships:** Collaborate with international counterparts to share data, research findings, and best practices in addressing UAP-related concerns.

**Transparency:** Promote transparency by periodically releasing sanitized reports on UAP incidents to inform the public while respecting national security interests.

**Conclusion:**

Australia cannot continue to bury it's head in the sand on this important issue. We must address the challenges posed by Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, it is vital that we prioritize the safety of our skies and the individuals who use them. By adopting a comprehensive, collaborative, and research-driven

approach, we can better understand the nature of UAPs, ensure flight security, and contribute to global efforts aimed at maintaining the integrity of our airspace in these times when storm clouds draw near.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.

Yours Sincerely,

James Ferguson