



Drones and air safety – new regulations in the spotlight

A recent spate of accidents and near misses has put the safety and reliability of drones squarely in the spotlight. In many cases, these safety incidents have been caused by people using drones without proper training. The House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs is currently conducting an inquiry into drones and privacy.

The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) has recently released draft changes to the Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Regulations that would allow more people to use drones without pilot training or a CASA-approved flight plan.

CASA will appear before the Committee on Thursday to discuss the proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations and the impact they may have on Australia's growing drone industry. Tomorrow's public hearing follows on from the Committee's roundtables on drones and privacy, held earlier this year.

The Committee Chair, Mr George Christensen MP, said 'Drone technology is developing at an extremely rapid pace, which poses substantial challenges for Australia's air safety regulators. The Committee looks forward to hearing from CASA about how it is adapting to these challenges.'

The hearing will be held on Thursday 29 May 2014 in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra, commencing at approximately 9.20am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A live audio stream of the hearing will be available on the APH website at www.aph.gov.au.

For media comment – please contact Dave Westman in the Chair's office on (07) 4944 0662.

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

(02) 6277 2358 | spla.reps@aph.gov.au | www.aph.gov.au/spla
