

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2020 5:26 PM
To: RRAT, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft Levy) Bill 2020 - Public Comment

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to you with my comments and concerns regarding the recent 2 Bills relating to the “Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft Levy) Bill 2020” and the upper limit of \$300 stated in that Bill.

I believe the people proposing, drafting and entering this Bill for consideration are not in touch with the subject, are not experts on the matter and have no idea of the effects such a levy would impose.

I am a hobbyist. I fly fixed wing remote controlled aircraft. It is not uncommon for people such as myself to have 10, 20, 30 or even more models. By definition, these are toys which are flown at safe locations (Remote Controlled Aircraft Model Clubs). You are proposing that we need to pay a levy of \$300 per aircraft which has been flown for years at no cost to the government nor CASA and has been done so safely without a single recorded safety issue. There is no justification for this exorbitant amount which could easily run into thousands of dollars and put many out of the hobby.

It is my humble opinion that hobbyists and their aircraft should be kept and treated completely separate to commercial activities. If the commercial sector wants to fly Remotely Piloted Aircraft for the purpose of profit then I have no qualms about a levy being charged against them. But I do have an issue with a levy and or registration fee being charged against a person who is simply conducting a hobby. As a hobbyist, what is my cost to the government or the Australian people? My cost to the government or people of Australia should be reflected in the charges issued to me by the government.

Prior to CASA wanting to register every RPA in the country for “safety” reasons, hobbyists were self regulating. Why has this changed? Where is the body of evidence that demonstrates that our hobby is dangerous and requires additional legislation and regulation. Again, there has not a been a single recorded fatality in Australia associated with our hobby.

Assign whatever levy you want to commercial interests, but implore you to keep our safe hobby affordable.

Best Regards,
Greg Butler