

The proposed bill is a massive over reaction to non-issue and will severely curtail the leisure activities of many children and hobbyists. While it may appeal to risk-adverse bureaucrats and politicians, parents and hobbyist voters will be pretty annoyed with it, and the people that approved it, once it comes into action.

In the 10 years since recreational multi-rotors have been around, there have been zero fatalities worldwide. Compare this to the shockingly poor safety record of manned aircraft where there are about 35 fatalities, and 5000 incidents in Australia alone year after year after year!

The proposed bill will require all flying toys over 250 grams to be registered and fees applied every year. You can just imagine parents response to this when they buy a small toy for their child and then have to go through a bureaucratic registration process and incur extra cost based on the silly idea that these toys pose a threat to general aviation. When the rubber hits to road on this bill, parents will see this bill and the clowns that proposed it as a joke — but not a very funny one. Expect a good bashing on the “nanny-state” theme from the current affairs shows also.

The bill will also unnecessarily stifle the model flying community and the small businesses that support it. Fewer people will take up the hobby and some existing members will drop out. The small businesses that supply parts and support will probably fold.

All this might be justified if there were a significant risk to the public or manned aviation in Australia. But there is no evidence for this.

All flying toys up to 1000 grams must be exempted from this registration scheme.