



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF AVIATION SAFETY

Trim Ref: SE13/1



02 July 2013

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs
and Transport Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle

Clarification of statements made at Estimates hearing on 29 May 2013

In response to a question from Senator Williams at the last Senate estimates hearing on mobile phone use on aircraft, I advised (at page 97 of *Hansard*):

'The current regulations prohibit the use of mobile phones on aircraft. That is correct.'

That is not strictly correct. Regulation 309A of the *Civil Aviation Regulations 1988* makes it an offence for a person not to comply with an instruction given by the operator or the pilot in command of an aircraft prohibiting or limiting the doing of an act on board the aircraft during flight time in the aircraft, where the operator or pilot in command is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the instruction is necessary in the interests of the safety of air navigation.

Such instructions may include directions to cease mobile phone use during certain stages of flight.

I apologise if my comments have caused any confusion.

Yours sincerely

John F. McCormick
Director of Aviation Safety