



Australian Association for Unmanned Systems

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The Hon Darren Chester MP  
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

4-Nov-17

RE: CASA Resources to Support Continued Safety and Industry Growth

Minister Chester

I was fortunate enough to hear your opening address at the Safeskies 2017 Conference in Canberra, and it is along the same vein of safety and sector growth that I am contacting you today.

The Australian Association for Unmanned Systems (AAUS) is Australia's peak representative body for the remotely piloted aircraft/drone sector. As you are no doubt aware, our industry is experiencing unprecedented growth. Earlier this month the number of CASA-certified businesses providing commercial RPAS services surpassed 1,150; more than the number of current Air Operators Certificate holders in Australia. This figure does not include the 7,700 other individuals and companies providing commercial RPAS services under the "excluded category". That's 9,000 new RPAS commercial operators added to the general aviation industry over the last five years. We expect this growth to continue, and within the next decade we predict the remotely piloted aviation sector to be larger in number and deliver significantly more economic benefit than all existing sectors of General Aviation combined.

CASA Director of Aviation Safety, Mr Shane Carmody, brought to my attention the difficulties his organisation faces in servicing our rapidly growing sector. Resources required to deliver regulatory services to RPAS come at the direct expense of the delivery of regulatory services to other aviation sectors. AAUS believes that this situation of robbing Peter to pay Paul will not lead to the best safety outcome for the Australian aviation industry.

***AAUS is advocating for an increase in CASA resources so as to ensure the continued high standard of safety across all aviation sectors.***

With this said, AAUS would like to acknowledge the exception work of Shane and the CASA RPAS Team in addressing the many regulatory issues being faced by the RPAS/drone industry. CASA are still seen as world leaders in their approach to the regulation of the sector and AAUS supports CASA in its endeavour to promote safety and continue regulatory reform for the sector.



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Members of the Association Executive, Mr Anthony Patterson (Cobham), Ms Peggy MacTavish (Flight Data Systems), Mr Greg Tyrrell (AAUS Executive Director) and I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this further with you and your Department. Further, as Australia's peak industry advocacy body, our door is always open to the Department should there be any need to engage on matters concerning the remotely piloted aircraft systems industry.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reece Clothier', written in a cursive style.

Dr Reece Clothier  
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