

Submission 59 – Confidential

Dear CASA and Government,

I am writing to share my thoughts and concerns on the impact of pushing Remote ID to recreational pilots, and criticisms for grouping all remotely piloted craft together into one category.

There are many reasons why pushing remote ID onto recreational flyers is going to have many negative consequences.

To start off with, there are many pilots of recreational aircraft models who fly specifically at model aircraft clubs, have been insured, and have been flying safely for decades WITHOUT any such equipment of remote id. If you came and visited one of these clubs and spoke to the people there, you will see that everyone there is supportive of flying safely and being compliant with the rules around flying. Myself included have been flying at these clubs with no issues to public safety. These are the people who will tell someone to stop flying, if they are not operating within the rules.

Requesting us, the most compliant group of people in this hobby who pay hundreds of dollars in club fees, and insurance fees, to now have to fork out extra costs to retrofit EVERY single model (some passionate people in this hobby have more than 11-20 models) in our hangar with this equipment, in the middle of a cost of living crisis, is extremely insane. It would not be conducive to public safety to alienate the group of people in this area that could potentially have been your allies with spreading awareness about flying safely and legally. Any Bad Operators would fly illegally regardless of Remote ID, just like any person who has a car license and speeds excessively on the freeway. Model aircraft clubs have been operating safely for decades, and those that have been doing so should not be punished. The areas where model aircraft clubs fly should be exempt from these draconian monitoring methods.

Secondly, this is a huge infringement of privacy. The models that we fly can range from the 1000s to 10s of thousands of dollars. Having remote id equipped on our models could leave us open to the risk of theft or more, by any unscrupulous 3rd party who has now gained the ability to potentially lock down where our models are being kept. This is an unnecessary risk to be introducing to us and therefore it should be avoided.

Thirdly to share some awareness, common fixed wing aircraft (particular battery operated ones) that are common with folks in this hobby mostly can NOT be flown beyond visual line of sight, and can only stay in the air for about 5-7 minutes at the most. These are often made from foam and fly mostly below 100 metres recreationally. To have to introduce remote ID on something flies at this altitude for such a limited amount of time, at a designated flying club, is extremely unnecessary, costly, and it will be an additional burden to anybody who is thinking about entering this hobby.

We are already paying dearly for this hobby being in Australia and having to pay substantial amounts more than our peers in the US, Asia, and Europe due to the shipping fees of delivering these aircraft to here. Introducing this additional layer of costs will only destroy the hobby, the businesses that sell these models, and the thousands of people that look up to model aviation as a way to alleviate mental health, build relationships, and engage in a sense of community. My father was enamored by aviation, having been a glider pilot in his youth, and passed down his passion to me, where I got involved in model aviation and continued the passion through a generation. I can only hope that when I have a child of my own, that the hobby will still be in a condition that would allow me to pass this to the next generation, however remote ID for recreational aircraft would destroy this due to the insane infringement of privacy and excess costs needed to fit aircraft with this.

In the interests of public safety, I would say that remote id should only be fitted only to the equipment that would be used to enable any operator to fly the aircraft beyond visual line of sight. Remote ID also has its place in commercial drone operation. I would strongly suggest remote ID NOT be used for recreational aircraft due to the reasons above, and I would also like to reiterate the difference between a typical drone (quad copter with a camera) and an ordinary fixed wing airplane as they do not belong in the same bucket.

Thank you for giving me the platform to provide my feedback.

Kind regards,