

Submission 103 – Kevin Wang

As a member of the general aviation community, the enthusiast drone racing community as well as a RePL holder, I would like to share my thought on the implementation of RID regards to safety. While I cannot comment on other areas such as the privacy implications, I have had an incident involving a drone flying way above the permitted 400ft AGL ceiling, as well as within 3nm of a controlled aerodrome. This was a near miss incident (within 200m and 100ft of altitude) that involved some commercially available camera platform. Presumably, the drone was recording a car event at Sandown, and it was positioned within the Moorabbin Class D airspace. I agree that some form of identification should be made mandatory.

However, a distinction MUST be made between enthusiast, home built FPV racing drones and the more common products such as DJI drones. Racing drones are built by enthusiasts who understand the rules. All racing takes place well below the 400ft ceiling, and unlike a member of the general public, these enthusiasts are often well aware of the rules and all abide by them. The cost of entry of the hobby can already be prohibitively expensive and complicated, and adding RID compliance could very well kill the part of the hobby where the drone operators were already abiding by the rules.

I propose an implementation of RID on all commercially available products, as the job of the manufacturer. However, with custom built drones, I think the current system where they are only legally allowed to be flown at clubs, in addition to a certification via a test to ensure knowledge of the rules will ensure that the rules are followed.