

## Submission 89 – Confidential

To whom it may concern.

Proposals like this only bring me great sadness and depression, that I'm to be treated worse than a criminal on parole by giving any paranoid lunatic with a smartphone the ability to track my location when I just want to fly in peace.

A vast majority of the public do not understand my hobby and my love of remote control flight, especially FPV drones and my own privacy has been under constant attack over the years with regulation that's both overbearing for users to follow and unenforceable by regulatory bodies. Remote ID does nothing for aviation safety and only paints a target on honest drone operators for stalking and harassment.

The flying I've done in the hobby has always been relatively low to the ground and away from people.

Tools such as "where can I fly" are far more useful to drone operators to avoid no fly zones such as air airports.

The solution being proposed to be implemented only makes harassing drone operators easier and if running tests at home, reveal operators home address locations.

This is particularly concerning for known female and child drone operators who's registration details could be used to track their exact location right back to their house putting them in physical danger of harassment or worse.

It has become particularly evident during covid, there is a particular paranoid science opposed subset of the community, who would use such easily accessible information to harass people like me in the hobby.

Drones and operators already broadcast their location via the radio connection to their drone and the telemetry and video feed it sends back to its operator.

There is no need to give every paranoid person the ability to easily track and harass people via a smartphone app.

Properly equipped law enforcement and airport security should have no issues triangulating radio signals and even jamming such signals to bring down bad operators.

I will also note that CASA has had no issues issuing fines to operators who have acted in an obviously dangerous manner to the public.

People greatly underestimate the abilities of hard working police detectives to investigate crimes. Drones are still operated by people and people know other people and people tend to talk.

Firearms pose a much greater danger to the community, yet I'm not seeing any proposals to put publically accessible GPS tracking on every firearm and firearm owner.

Remote controlled aircraft remain a very niche hobby. The fears of swarms of drones being used to bring down aircraft are completely unfounded. To this date I do not believe there is a single case of a hobby class drone being used to bring down an aircraft with collisions being similar to that of a bird strike, which aircraft have been designed to withstand. Various acts of property damage have mostly been dealt with privately and with insurance much like a ball breaking a window.

Stalkers are more likely to use publicly accessible information, tracking devices such as Air Tags or their own mobile phones to keep track of victims. This Drone ID system is a greater privacy and security risk than any store bought drone.

This is needless regulation that'll mean more burden to maintain and enforce for the government .

A far better solution would be to open up ADS-B warning systems for commercial drones over 5kg that fly in or near controlled airspace.

For smaller drones, it's already common for contact details written on the drone so if they are lost can be returned to the owner.

A licensing system similar to fishing would be far more effective.

Bad actors will continue to fly without obeying regulations and will easily disable such tracking systems

Most remote controlled aircraft enthusiasts just want to enjoy their hobby in peace without being harrassed by the general public who know little to nothing about the hobby.

Hobbyists have a long history of acting in good faith. Weather balloon hobbyists have been using APRS radio systems to track their own weather balloons and get flight permission from CASA..

Racing drone hobbyists already race on closed courses and actively avoid people. Club members are even covered by liability insurance in case of damage.

Even those involved in the legally dubious act of long range FPV drones have GPS return to base safety features because they value their drones and go to great lengths to recover them when lost.

Unfortunately my cynicism tells me there are bigger lobbyists at play here (the ones selling the tracking modules) and that all honest submissions by the public will be ignored.

To date, I do not believe the committee overseeing this proposal has made any meaningful consultation with those in the hobby. But I fear the proposal will be put forward anyway.

I foresee these kinds of regulations will push many out of a hobby they love. A hobby that has created many friendships and encouraged many students to pursue STEM education.

This is despite the efforts of those in the hobby to self impose safety for everyone whilst making it welcome and easy to get into for newcomers.