

MEDIA RELEASE



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AAA welcomes government endorsement for drone registration scheme

The Australian Airports Association (AAA) has welcomed the Federal Government's support for the development of a mandatory registration scheme for some remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) this week.

The scheme would require RPAS weighing more than 250 grams to be registered, with operators required to complete a competence test about their safe use as part of the registration process.

AAA Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie said the scheme would deliver important safety benefits for the aviation industry.

"Drone capabilities are creating a wealth of new opportunities for business and industry, but we must ensure this doesn't come at the expense of aviation safety," Ms Wilkie said.

"A simple registration process will ensure all operators know their obligations in the skies, as well as the potential impact of non-compliance.

"The AAA welcomes the Government's support for the scheme and looks forward to engaging with CASA on the implementation process."

The Federal Government confirmed its support for the scheme in its response to the Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport report on regulatory requirements impacting on the safe use of RPAS.

CASA is developing options for the scheme, which would make it compulsory for both professional and recreational users of RPAS over 250 grams to register.

It is expected to include a competence test addressing the safe use of RPAS and the penalties for non-compliance.

The AAA previously called for a mandatory registration scheme as part of its submission to the Senate Committee's inquiry.

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