

Roma and District Aeromodelling Club Inc.



Committee Secretary
 Transport and Public Works Committee
 Parliament House
 George Street
 Brisbane Qld 4000

Roma And District Aeromodelling Club Inc.

Official response to the Transport and Public Works Committee Inquiry

We are a small country Club in South Western Queensland and participate in and promote the hobby of model Aircraft building and flying. This includes all types of engine and electric powered planes, helicopters and drones. We are affiliated with the Model Aeronautical Association of Queensland whom in turn has over 2400 affiliated members through 60 affiliated clubs.

Our submission relates to the following sections of the guideline:

- a. The economic impact
- b. The contribution of the industry to Queensland's tourism sector
- d. Options to improve the safety of all industry participants;
- e. The impact on youth training and community engagement

Economic Impact

On a local level one of our members has a small hobby supply business that is run from his residence. Members also purchase supplies via on line stores in Australia, which then requires local delivery services. One of our members (who now lives in Brisbane) works for a company that designs and supplies racing drones to customers all over the world. His employment is thanks to the skills and knowledge gained in the hobby.

The contribution of the industry to Queensland's tourism sector

Our members often travel to other clubs to participate in various model flying activities. Recently some members travelled to an event in Kingaroy, requiring accommodation, food and fuel.

On a state level, the Dalby club recently hosted the Asia Pacific Regional Scale Aerobatic Championship. This involved around 25 overseas competitors 20 interstate competitors with around 1000 visitors to the event over the weekend.

During a week in August this year the world championship for model pylon racing was held in Maryborough. The countries represented were Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland and USA. This biannual event was last held in Australia 8 years ago with the next event being held in USA. It was estimated by the local Mayor that this event alone injected around \$500,000 to the local community. This is just two examples of the tourism and economic impact these sorts of events have.

Roma and District Aeromodelling Club Inc.

[REDACTED]

The flow on effects for the tourism industry must not be overlooked, as many of these overseas and interstate visitors partaking in these events also have extended holidays while they are here, spending even more of their money in our sunshine state.

Options to improve the safety of all industry participants

Our club, through the state association, is affiliated with the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia who are in turn are approved by CASA as the Recreational Aviation Administration Organisation (RAAO) for Model Aircraft.

To this end, our club operates under the various Manuals of Procedures, ensuring safe operation within our allotted airspace and maintaining safe operations for pilots and visitors alike. We have two designated instructors who guide newcomers in the art of model flying to ensure safe and competent flying of the models.

The impact on youth training and community engagement

Our club has participated with a local school in the building and flying of small rubber powered models. This proved very popular with the group of students, allowing them to gain skills using small hand tools, reading instructions and measuring, along with learning the basics of aerodynamics. We also partake in static displays at local fetes and schools. Over the years some of our once junior members have gone on to work in the full size aircraft industry, either as pilots or maintenance engineers. We are also working with the local Scouts and Air Cadets on the model flying section of their activities. Our field has also recently hosted a visit from the local Historical Car Club, with their members enjoying our facilities and enjoying our activities.

This submission is done with the approval of the Management Committee of the Roma And District Aeromodelling Club Inc. and with knowledge of the MAAQ, our state association.

I trust this information gives some insight to the committee on the positive impacts our recreation activities have on the betterment of Queensland.

Regards,

Ken Dawes

Secretary

Roma And District Aeromodelling Club Inc.

Email: radac.club@gmail.com

Ph [REDACTED]

Mail Address: RADAC [REDACTED]