

Transport and Public Works Committee

From: president@maaq.org
Sent: Tuesday, 11 February 2020 3:27 PM
To: Transport and Public Works Committee
Cc: committee@maaq.org
Subject: RE: Transport and Public Works Committee - Stakeholder and Submitter update - Motor Recreational Activities inquiry

Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your update on the Committee's inquiry into motor recreational activities.

The Model Aeronautical Association of Queensland Incorporated (MAAQ) has not yet made a formal submission. Unfortunately were unable to meet the original deadline but we are keen to make a detailed submission to the committee. In particular we would welcome the opportunity to appear before the committee at the public hearings.

By way of background, the MAAQ is the peak body in Queensland representing aeromodellers and aeromodelling clubs. We understand a number of our affiliated clubs have also made submissions to the inquiry.

Our membership is in excess of 2000 individuals (and around 67 clubs) with a passion for flying miniature aircraft including radio control, control-line and free-flight models. These range from very small to very large models with engines up to 400cc.

Our clubs are constantly under threat from urban expansion with limited facilities available in the major population centres. One of our clubs located at Loganholme (with over 250 members) is currently under threat due to the Logan City Council not extending their lease. This is not an isolated issue.

Aeromodelling has long been recognised as a gateway to full size aviation and other related industries. Our association has a long history of fostering juniors and providing fellowship to members of all ages from all walks of life. The current technology boom in remoted piloted vehicles and drones has its foundation in aeromodelling. Many of the pilots currently flying life-saving drones on our beaches, carrying out search and rescue operations, or surveying fires and other natural disasters, developed their skills and interest as aeromodellers. However, we are constantly battling to maintain appropriate facilities for aeromodelling. We are acutely aware of providing a safe environment for our members and also ensuring that they comply with relevant air safety regulations etc. The difficulty of accessing aeromodelling clubs and facilities has undoubtedly resulted in people illegally flying drones in parks and other public places.

Aeromodelling activities including "fly-ins", competitions and various gatherings benefit the economy by encouraging large numbers of our members to travel and spend money in all areas of Queensland. Most commonly, these events are held in regional areas. Some of these events are international in nature. Last year alone, there were a number of international aeromodelling events held in Queensland including:

- RC Pylon Racing World Championships at Maryborough
- RC Aerobatics World Cup held at Coolum
- RC Scale Aerobatics Asia Pacific Championships held at Dalby
- RC Aerobatics Trans-Tasman Championships held at Tin Can Bay

Each of these events attracted hundreds of interstate and international visitors to Queensland and injected hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local communities. Supporting the development of aeromodelling

facilities in Queensland will greatly assist in attracting these type of events in the future and promoting participation in general.

I look forward to further assisting the committee with its inquiries.

Warm regards

Michael Hobson
MAAQ President

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