



**Environment Protection Authority**  
GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001  
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Country areas 1800 623 445

██████████  
████████████████████  
Aviation Environment Branch  
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear ██████████

Two documents have been released by the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Cities (DIRDC) relating to the Noise Regulation Review for Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and Specialised Aircraft ([https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/aircraft-noise/noise\\_regulation\\_review\\_for\\_rpa\\_drones\\_and\\_specialised\\_aircraft.aspx](https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/aviation/environmental/aircraft-noise/noise_regulation_review_for_rpa_drones_and_specialised_aircraft.aspx)).

The South Australian Environment Protection Authority (SA EPA) is mostly concerned with the documents pertaining to Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and notes that Specialised Aircraft should be continued to be addressed at a federal level, like non-specialised aircraft.

Noise certification standards for different models of drones and UAM should be regulated at federal level. One of the reasons for this is that all other aircraft are certified at a federal level after meeting international standards from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and other applicable overseas regulators. These regulators should include additional sections and chapters in their regulations for testing drones and UAM (as they currently have for a variety of other aircraft) and this can be managed at a Federal Government level in Australia. This is likely to be a rapidly developing field of aircraft and testing regimes and regulations may need to be regularly adjusted to suit ever advancing aircraft technologies. It is agreed that all drones below a certain weight threshold and hence noise level would be exempt from these regulations.

The EPA notes that the regulation of airspace is carried out at a federal level. The Commonwealth government should develop national standards and guidelines to assess noise impacts of drones and UAM's once they have been certified. This will enable jurisdictions to have common standards in respective planning frameworks. Common standards/guidelines could include noise impacts, noise assessment, and operating restrictions.



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For further information on this matter, please contact **Ian Yorke, Principal Adviser Noise** (Phone: [REDACTED] and email: [REDACTED]).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Yorke'.

Ian Yorke

**PRINCIPAL ADVISER NOISE**

**ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

Date: 29/11/2019