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06 NOV 2020

The Director
Airspace and Emerging Technologies
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Communities
drones@infrastructure.gov.au

Department of
State Development,
Tourism and Innovation

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Emerging Aviation Technologies – National Aviation Policy Issues Paper (the Paper), as released by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communities (DITRDC) on 3 September 2020.

The Queensland Government supports a nationally consistent approach to the management of new aviation technologies, as outlined in the Paper. Ongoing consultation across all levels of government, including local government stakeholders, will be key to ensuring effective management and coordination.

The Queensland Drones Strategy (2018) sets the vision for Queensland to capitalise on emerging development opportunities and innovation in drone technology and applications. Recent initiatives in the state include:

- commitment of \$2 million to support the development of Australia's first maritime autonomous system testing facility in Townsville, as part of the Townsville Regional Economic Recovery Plan
- commitment of \$14.5 million for regulatory approvals, design, construction and operations and maintenance of the first stage of a commercial common-user UAS Flight Test Range at Cloncurry in the state's north west
- completion of a review of Queensland's laws relating to civil surveillance and the protection of privacy in the context of current and emerging technologies by the Queensland Law Reform Commission, with the QLRC Review Report tabled by the Attorney-General in the Queensland Parliament on 29 June 2020
- release of the Queensland Drones Use Policy to guide all state agencies and employees on the safe, respectful, accountable and innovative use of drones.

The Queensland Government's response to the Paper is enclosed. I request that the response be treated as confidential and not be published. The documents referred to in this letter are publicly available, including via the weblinks embedded in the text of the enclosed response.

I encourage you to contact Mr Michael Allen, Executive Director, Investment Facilitation and Industrial Land, Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation if you require further information on this matter. Mr Allen can be contacted via email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely