

Australia needs a strong civilian network of people with experience building, programming, and operating drones. As a resident of Canberra, it is very difficult for me to access areas where it is legal for me to fly drones. I imagine the hurdles are even greater in the cities.

I submit that the government should choose an appropriate area to make available to drone clubs near every single large population centre in the country. The various clubs (tinkerers, racers, and fighters) could ensure that all their club members flying drones in a certain area understood their obligations to stay within the area. The clubs could risk losing their ability to use the area if their members were responsible for breaches, which would allow for community self-regulation.

This would lower barriers to the organic growth of a civilian network of people interested in drones. Only through a strong network of civilian drone clubs can Australia properly harness its own inventiveness and skill. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in advancing this goal.

If there is any doubt that Australia would benefit from a stronger civilian drone industry, I would be happy to discuss that premise further.