



**Australian Government**  
**Civil Aviation Safety Authority**

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Branch

20 October 2017

Mr Neil Tank  
President  
Model Aeronautical Association of Australia  
16 Illidge Road  
VICTORIA POINT QLD 4165  
via email – president@maaa.asn.au

Dear Mr Tank

**Direction – operations of certain unmanned aircraft – instrument number 96/17**

As you know, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), recently issued directions limiting certain model aircraft operations in ways that now require an approval from CASA, where those activities could previously be conducted without such an approval.

[www.casa.gov.au/drones](http://www.casa.gov.au/drones)

CASA recognises that aspects of these new interim requirements may affect your members' activities in certain locations. In particular, the recreational operation of any unmanned aircraft outside controlled airspace at a height above 400 feet above ground level is now prohibited, in the absence of express authorisation from CASA.

Acknowledging that the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA) has a record of effectively overseeing the safe operation of your members' activities, CASA is developing appropriate mechanisms by which relief from some the new restrictions can be provided quickly and easily in appropriate cases. Once in place, these arrangements will allow your members to continue to engage in those activities safely and lawfully. We will be contacting you soon to discuss the details these arrangements and the assistance we will require from MAAA to put them in place as soon as possible.

In the meantime, to the extent the new directions now prohibit or limit certain unmanned and model aircraft operations, your members are expected to comply with the requirements that apply to their activities. We urge you to encourage them to do so.

In accordance with the responsible exercise of its discretion in the enforcement of safety requirements, however, and having regard to the anticipated introduction of the relief arrangements mentioned above, CASA will regard any apparent contravention of the directions that have not previously limited the activities of your members with circumspection and reasonable restraint. Such an approach is consistent with principle 7 of CASA's [Regulatory Philosophy](#).

Yours sincerely

Luke Gumley  
RPAS Manager

CC Mr Kevin Dobb – Secretary  
via email – [secretary@maaa.asn.au](mailto:secretary@maaa.asn.au)