

13-June-2025

Statement from Mick Ryan,

1. As you note of my conversation with you yesterday, I responded to your questions concerning my association with Skydio with candour. You noted that I have been “*open*” about that association; my openness has not only been as you state “*when asked*” it is there for all to see on a number of social media platforms. It has never been disguised, hidden, or required questioning.
2. I have been commentating about the importance of lethal drones in warfare, as you state, for many years. The astounding advances in the technology of lethal drone warfare since the commencement of the Ukraine war has been the subject of my public commentary and of my writings. I note Skydio does not manufacture lethal drones.
3. I have, as a consequence of my experiences in Ukraine, first-hand knowledge of the nature of lethal drone warfare, developed an expertise and reputation in the subject of lethal drone warfare that is second to none. That expertise and my opinions on the subject have been sought over years by many, including Australian and international media.
4. Any imputation that my opinions and commentary on this topic have in any way been influenced as a consequence of an exiguous association with Skydio would amount to an unjustified and defamatory attack on my reputation and character. Similarly, publication of any connotation that by not disclosing a relationship with Skydio in “*news segments [I] appeared in*” in some way amounts to a non-disclosed conflict of interest or questionable behaviour (re my association with Skydio) as suggested in your email amounts to an unjustified and injurious attack on my character and reputation.
5. I have spent over thirty-five years of my life serving my country. That service and commitment to country is my motivation for bringing to the attention of the Australian public the critical need to adapt and prepare for new types of warfare.