Avdata provides data reporting and billing services to a number of airports across Australia. Invoices are issued on behalf of airport operators for airport usage charges such as aircraft landing and training activity, aircraft parking and passenger charges. These services allow local councils and other airport operators to recover some of the costs of operating airport facilities from those who use them.

Use of an airport by an aircraft is detected by a variety of means. One of these is transcription of pilot radio broadcasts. Broadcasts on the CTAF for the relevant airport are transcribed into a report of airport landing and training events which may then be used as a basis for generation of invoices.

The author of the submission (Andrew Jones) is not correct in claiming that a fee would apply for 'over flying West Wyalong at 5500 feet and making a safety broadcast of position and intentions'. Avdata does not and will not charge on behalf of an airport for an aircraft to transit through the CTAF area without making use of the airport facility. An invoice is issued only when the available data leads to the conclusion that a billable use of the airport has occurred.

If an aircraft operator were concerned that an overflight had been misinterpreted as use of an airport facility then they should contact Avdata to lodge a query. Avdata accounts staff would then investigate the source data and make an invoice adjustment if required. Avdata would welcome the provision of further details in order to investigate the specific circumstances of the concerns raised in the submission.

Avdata has a clear and ongoing interest in improving the quality and reliability of available airport usage data. Our airport clients rely on this information in order to manage and maintain their facilities to the level expected by users and their communities.

When pilots ensure that their radio calls clearly communicate their activities (in compliance with government regulations), they not only contribute to the safety of all aircraft in that airspace but they also help those who are responsible for maintaining local airport and aerodrome infrastructure to better understand who is using their facilities and to meet the needs of those users. Air safety is not compromised by record keeping and accountability.