

Flying Drones On Public Property Policy (Incl. Model Aircraft)

Objective

Protect people, property and other aircraft from injury or damage that could result from a collision.

Policy Statements

The following rules pertaining to drones flown as a hobby or commercially must be adhered to when flying on Public Property.

A: Flying drones commercially: When flying for money, or any form of economic gain:

- You need to be licensed and certified as an operator by CASA; or
- Work for a certified operator.

Commercial operators flying a drone weighing **under 2kg**, can make use of CASA's 'excluded' [category](#).

Commercial operators must:

- have an [Aviation Reference Number](#) (ARN) issued by CASA;
- register their operations with the City of Albany, providing:
 - (a) ARN;
 - (b) Proof of \$ 1 million public liability insurance;
 - (c) Contact Name & Number;
 - (d) Operation Details: Date(s) & Time(s) & Location(s).

B: Flying for fun and recreation: While people do not need a licence or approval to fly a drone for fun from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), the following rules must be adhered to when flying on City of Albany Public Property:

- Drones must be kept more than 30 metres away from other people at all times and must not be flown over places where there are crowds of people such as beaches or sporting events.
- Drones can only be operated in daylight within line of sight. They should be kept more than five kilometres from airports and be flown below 400 feet (120 metres).
- The privacy of other people should be respected by not flying near homes and backyards.
- Never fly a drone in an active bushfire area as there is a real risk of a mid-air collision with a firefighting aircraft, which could cause an accident.
- Firefighting aircraft will be grounded if a drone is conducting unauthorised flights on a fire ground, hampering work to control the fire and putting people and property at risk.
- Drones should also be kept away from police operations, accident scenes, building fires and rescue operations.

C: Infringement notices can be issued if the City of Albany rules or CASA regulations are breached and people are injured.

D: Reporting Unsafe or Suspicious Activity

Serious Risks to aviation safety:

- Drones being flown near airports, aerodromes or helipads; being flown more than 400ft (120 metres) above the ground level, at night, or into clouds.
- Phone the CASA safety hotline on [1800 074 737](tel:1800074737), or contact the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).
- The ATSB also has a confidential reporting online system at:

<http://www.atsb.gov.au/voluntary/recon-aviation.aspx>

Suspicious Activity: If you believe drones are being used in a suspicious activity [i.e. flying at night, breaches of privacy, dropping packages or other suspicious activity] then you should notify the local Police immediately on: [9892 9300](tel:98929300)

National Security: If you believe the suspicious drone activity might be a threat to national security you should call the National Security Hotline on: [1800 123 400](tel:1800123400)

Nuisance to Playground/Recreational Park Users: If you believe that a person is operating a drone in a manner that causes a nuisance to other recreation park users you should call the City of Albany on: [6820 3000](tel:68203000).

Scope

This policy applies to all drone operators, except operators who:

- hold a remote pilot licence (RePL) and operate according to a remotely piloted aircraft operator certificate (ReOC); or
- have an authorisation from CASA;

you will be exempt from requiring a permit from the City of Albany.

Legislative and Strategic Context

- **Federal Legislation:** Drone safety rules vary depending on whether drones are being flown commercially or for fun (recreationally). The full rules are accessible at the CASA website: <https://www.casa.gov.au/aircraft/landing-page/flying-drones-australia>
- **City of Albany Local Government Property Local Law 2011:**
“Clause 2.2(d) Activities prohibited on local government property. A person shall not use, launch or fly powered aeroplanes, gliders or rockets that are propelled by mechanical, hydraulic, combustion or pyrotechnic means except on land which is reserved by the local government for that purpose, or as otherwise provided by determination or permit.”

Review Position and Date

This policy was approved on 15 February 2018. This policy and procedure is to be reviewed by the document owner annually.

Associated Documents

Related strategies, procedures, references, guidelines or other documents that have a bearing on this policy and that may be useful reference material for users of this policy:

- [Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101](#)
- [Advisory Circulars for drone operations](#)
- [CASA 96/17 - Direction — operation of certain unmanned aircraft](#)
- [Download Flying your drone for fun brochure](#)

Other useful information:

- [Flying over your own property](#)
- [List of certified drone operators](#)
- <https://droneflyer.com.au/>

Internal Use Only: Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for Permit: Customer Service Team process request • Action Officer: Risk Management/Insurance Officer • Notification: Reserves Team, Ranger Term • Complaints: (Public Land) – Ranger Team (Private Land) – Refer to WAPOL

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