

## 2.17 Flying Drones on Public Property Policy (Incl. Model Aircraft)

<b>Policy Owner</b>	Executive Director Commercial & Corporate Services
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager Governance & Risk Airport Coordinator
<b>Date of Approval</b>	20/02/2018
<b>Amended/Revised</b>	07/11/2024

### Objective

The objective of this policy is to protect people, property, and other aircraft from injury or damage that could result from a collision.

### Scope

This policy applies to drones flown on or over City of Albany Public Property.

### Policy Statement

The City of Albany welcomes the use of commercial and recreational drones, provided they do not breach the safety and/or amenity of others on public land.

### Flying Drones Commercially

- **Permit Requirement:** Must have a permit to operate a drone at City of Albany-approved public events.
- **Licensing:**
  - You need to be licensed and certified as an operator by CASA; or
  - Work for a certified operator (with an appropriate licence).

### Commercial operators must:

- Have an Aviation Reference Number (ARN) issued by CASA.
- Register their operations with the City of Albany, providing:
  - ARN
  - Proof of \$1 million public liability insurance
  - Contact Name & Number
  - Type of Licence (if applicable), Model/Make, Size if greater than 2 kg
  - Activity Details: Date(s), Time(s), and Location(s)

**Note:** Commercial operators flying a drone weighing under 2kg can use CASA's 'sub 2 kg drones for business use - excluded category'.

## Flying For Fun and Recreation

While people do not need a license 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 or over City of Albany Public Property:

- It is acknowledged that CASA advises that flying a drone within 5.5 km of a non-controlled airport is possible, but only if no manned aircraft are operating to or from the aerodrome. However, it is the City of Albany's position that no drone is to operate within the Obstacle Limiting Surface (OLS) of the Albany Airport, without permission from the City of Albany Airport Accountable Manager.
- 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 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.
- Drones should also be kept flown in a manner to minimise disturbing wildlife (i.e. nesting birds).

*Note: CASA will soon require drone operators to register any drone that weighs over 250g and do a short quiz to test the operators' knowledge of the drone safety rules.*

To find out more visit <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones>

## Infringement Notices

Infringement notices can be issued by an authorised officer if the rules are breached.

## Reporting Unsafe or Suspicious Activity

- **Serious Risks to Aviation Safety:**
  - Drones being flown near airports, aerodromes or helipads causing a hazard to manned aircraft operations.
  - Drones 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**, or contact the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).
  - The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) also has an aviation confidential reporting online scheme called REPCON. REPCON allows any person who has an aviation safety concern to report it to the ATSB confidentially. Protection of the reporter's identity and any individual referred to in the report is a primary element of the scheme: <http://www.atsb.gov.au/voluntary/repcon-aviation.aspx>
- **Suspicious Activity:** If you believe drones are being used in 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**
- **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**
- **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**.

## Legislative and Strategic Context

- **Federal Legislation:** Drone safety rules vary depending on commercial or recreational use. Full rules are accessible at the CASA [website](#).
- **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.”*

- **Delegation:** LG3.01.2 - Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2011 - Trading, Stallholders, Performing and Outdoor Dining (LG Act)

*Note: Prohibited locations for flying drones are designated by signage (for Example Albany (Harry Riggs) Regional Airport)*

## Review Position and Date

This policy was originally approved on 15 February 2018 and is to be reviewed annually.

## Associated Documents

- *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101*
- *General Drone Rules*
  - Rules for Public Spaces
  - Enforcement of Drone Rules
  - Drone Rules in Emergencies
  - Rules for Drones Under 2kg

*Note: For ease of reference drone operation within 1km of the fenced airport perimeter, requires permission.*

## Definitions

- **Commercial Operators:** Individuals who fly for money or any form of economic gain. Must hold a remote pilot licence (RePL) and operate according to a remotely piloted aircraft operator certificate (ReOC) or have CASA authorisation.
- **Obstacle Limiting Surface (OLS):** Conceptual surfaces associated with a runway, identifying the lower limits of aerodrome airspace above which objects become obstacles to aircraft operations.

*Note: Drone operation within 1km of the fenced airport perimeter requires permission.*

## Other Useful Information

- *List of Certified Drone Operators*
- *Know Before You FLY*
- *Drone Rules: Drone rules | Civil Aviation Safety Authority*

### **Internal Use Only: Process**

- **Request for Permit:** Customer Service Team process request
- **Action Officer:** Risk Management/Insurance Officer
- **Notification:** Airport Team, Reserves Team, Ranger Team
- **Complaints:** (Public Land) – Ranger Team (Private Land) – Refer to WAPOL