

Title	Public use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) in State forest	Version	0.2
Policy No.	P 2020/02	Effective date	28/02/2020

1. OVERVIEW

This policy covers the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) - also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones - on State forest by members of the public and commercial operators not related to the business of the Corporation. Recreational and commercial uses of drones in State forest can interfere with visitors' enjoyment and individuals' privacy, and can impact on wildlife. They can also dangerously interfere with forest management operations, including fire management.

2. BACKGROUND

Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) technology, also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones, has developed rapidly in recent years, and will continue to do so.

RPA (drones) are aircraft and are covered by civil aviation laws. It is up to the operator of a drone to ensure that it is airworthy, and is flown safely and in accordance with Commonwealth aviation regulations.

Use of RPA in Australia is regulated under Commonwealth legislation administered by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). Part 101 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASR) is dedicated to RPA.

3. SCOPE

This policy covers the use of RPA on State forest by members of the public for sport or recreation and for commercial operations not related to the business of the Corporation.

4. POLICY

- 4.1. All RPA operations will be conducted in a way that does not create a hazard to another aircraft, another person or property.
- 4.2. All operators will abide by all regulations detailed in CASR Part 101.
- 4.3. All operators should check the Spotlight page on the [FCNSW web site](#) for the latest advice about fires and floods affecting State forests or forest closures.
- 4.4. Non-commercial ("sport or recreation") RPA flights can be conducted on State forest without a Forest Permit but must comply with CASA's Standard Operating Conditions (SOCs) and comply with the requirements in point 4.5 below.
- 4.5. RPA flown on State forest for ANY purpose not related to the business of the Corporation must not:
 - Interfere with or fly within 200m of harvesting operations
 - Interfere with other forest management operations
 - Be flown within 5 nautical miles of any fire or other emergency service operation
 - Cause a nuisance to other members of the public
 - Cause a nuisance or cause risk to wildlife.

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- 4.6. Operators conducting RPA operations for commercial purposes (including research) not related to the business of the Corporation must obtain a FCNSW permit covering the extent and type of operation and comply with the permit conditions and with CASA requirements for commercial activities.
- 4.7. Applications for permits can be made through the FCNSW on-line permit system. Prevailing permit fees at the time of application may be payable.
- 4.8. As part of the permit application, operators conducting RPA operations with aircraft greater than 2 kg must provide a copy of their Remote Pilot's Licence (RePL) (for each operator), RPA Operator's Certificate (ReOC), and evidence of Public Liability Insurance. For aircraft less than 2 kg operated for commercial or research purposes, the aircraft must be operated under a ReOC by the holder of a RePL.
- 4.9. Commercial RPA operations on State forests that are related to the business of the Corporation must comply with Policy P 2017/02 *Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) for FCNSW business*.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 101 ([volume 3 CASR 1998](#))
- Civil Aviation Safety Regulation Part 101 [Manual of Standards 2019](#)

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Policy P2017/02 *Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) for FCNSW business*

7. REVISION HISTORY

Version	Policy Number	Date
0.1	P2017/03	14/12/2016
0.2	P2020/02	28/02/2020

8. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

28/02/2024

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Manager, Innovation and Research

Executive Endorsement



Chief Executive Officer