

Policy



Title	Public use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in State forest	Version	4
Policy No.	P2023-05	Effective date	24/08/2023

1 OVERVIEW

This policy covers the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) - 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 Systems (RPAS) technology, also known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones, has developed rapidly in recent years, and will continue to do so.

RPAS (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.

RPAS use 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 RPAS.

3 SCOPE

This policy covers the use of RPAS 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

- 1.1. All RPAS operations will be conducted in a way that does not create a hazard to another aircraft, another person or property.
- 1.2. All operators will abide by all regulations detailed in *CASR Part 101*.
- 1.3. All operators should check the Closures and Notices page on the [FCNSW web site](#) and the [Hazards Near Me NSW](#) app for the latest advice about fires and floods affecting State forests or forest closures.
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. RPA flown on State forest for ANY purpose not related to the business of the Corporation must not:

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- 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.
- 1.6. Operators conducting RPAS operations for commercial purposes (including research) not related to the business of the Corporation must provide 7 days notice prior to these types of operations by use of the [Commercial RPAS Operation Notification](#) form.
- 1.7. As part of the *Commercial RPAS Operation Notification*, operators conducting commercial flights in State Forests must confirm they hold the appropriate qualifications required for the tasks to be completed (which may include CASA Operator Accreditation, Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) and RPAS Operator Certificate (ReOC)) and confirm they hold appropriate Public Liability Insurance.
- 1.8. FCNSW reserves the right to revoke approval of any person or organisation to operate in State Forest at any time for any reason. Revocation of operating approval will be notified in writing to the person/organisation via the email address provided on the *Commercial RPAS Operation Notification* form.
- 1.9. Commercial RPA operations on State forests that are related to the business of the Corporation must comply with Policy P2023-1 *Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) 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 P2023-4 *Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for FCNSW business*

7 REVISION HISTORY

Version	Policy Number	Date
1	P2017/03	14/12/2016
2	P2020/02	28/2/2020
3	P2022/07	9/05/2022
4	P2023/05	24/08/2023

8 DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

23/08/2025

CONTACT OFFICER

Manager, Innovation and Research

Executive Endorsement



Chief Executive Officer