

Title	Public use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) in State forest	Version	0.1
Policy No.	P 2017/03	Effective date	2/01/2017

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 be aware of the latest conditions for fire, flood and forest closures through appropriate web sites and apps including Forestry Corporation's Visit NSW Forests App, Rural Fire Service apps eg Fires Near Me and associated web sites.
- 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 sport or recreation must not:
 - Interfere with or fly within 200m of forestry operations
 - Interfere with other forest management operations
 - Be flown anywhere near fire management activities
 - Cause a nuisance to other members of the public
 - Cause a nuisance or cause risk to wildlife.

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- 4.6. All commercial operators of RPA (not related to the business of the Corporation), including research activities, 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 to FCNSW by contacting the relevant regional office or emailing info@fcnsw.com.au. Permits will incur a fee.
- 4.8. Commercial RPA operations on State forests that are related to the business of the Corporation must comply with Policy P2017/02 *Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) for FCNSW business*.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 101 ([volume 3 CASR 1998](#))

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	2/01/2017

8. DATE OF NEXT REVIEW

2/1/2020

9. CONTACT OFFICER

Manager, Forest Information and Planning

Executive Endorsement



Chief Executive Officer