

What is a Drone?

Drones are also known as Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs) or unmanned aerial vehicles.

General

Drones are regulated under Federal Government aviation legislation. The Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988* and State *Surveillance Devices Act 1998* regulate aspects of drone use.

Local Governments have limited powers to regulate the use of drones except on lands under Local Government control.

What are the rules for flying Drones?

CASA has guidelines that require that drones or similar devices must be operated:

- During the day
- Within visual line of sight (this means being able to see the aircraft with your own eyes rather than through a device) at all times
- You must not fly your drone higher than 120 metres (400ft) above the ground.
- You must keep your drone at least 30 metres away from other people.
- You must not fly over or above people. This could include beaches, parks, events, or sports ovals where there is a game in progress.
- You must only fly one drone at a time.

Do I need to get approval from the Shire of Coolgardie to fly a drone?

Generally, you do not need approval from the Shire to fly a drone within Coolgardie, you are required to comply with Australia's Civil Aviation and Safety Authority (CASA) Guidelines restrict drone use to certain areas.

You are required to obtain approval from the Shire of Coolgardie to fly a Drone near the Kambalda Airport.

Can I fly a drone over my house?

According to CASA regulations, drones must not be flown higher than 120 metres (400 feet) above ground level. This height restriction applies to all drone operators, regardless of where they are flying over house or other areas.

Can I fly a drone on private property?

Yes, however you are subject to CASA regulations. For more information, please contact CASA on 131 757.

Can I fly at any parks and reserves in the Shire of Coolgardie?

No. CASA Guidelines restrict drone use to certain areas.

Kambalda Airport – Restrictions

Kambalda Airport is used by a range of commercial, charter and private aircraft, with regular aircraft movements throughout the week. Airport airspace is protected to provide a safe, predictable environment for aircraft to arrive and depart in various weather conditions.

CASA Drone Rules include: -

- You must not operate your drone in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, person, or property. If your drone weighs more than 250 grams, you must fly at least 5.5 kilometres away from a controlled airport, which generally have a control tower at them.
- You may operate your drone within 5.5 km of a non-controlled airport or helicopter landing site if: there are no crewed aircraft flying in the area. you see any crewed aircraft flying to or from the airport or helicopter landing site you land as soon as safely possible.

No-Fly zones vary depending on whether the aerodrome is controlled or uncontrolled. In short you should contact the Shire prior to each drone flight to ensure that your drone does not interfere with airport operations of other aerial activities.

Can the Shire guarantee that the area where I want to fly the drone will be available?

The exclusive rights to areas including parks and reserves will not be given for the purpose of flying a drone. The Shire cannot guarantee that the area you want to fly your drone will be available.

It is illegal to fly a drone for commercial gain.

Flying commercially or for economic gain is illegal, unless you have your remote pilot licence or are flying in the sub-2kg category.

Please contact CASA on 131 757 for more information.

Privacy concerns?

There are potential privacy issues in operating drones. If you feel a drone is spying on you, you should call police, who are the appropriate authority to deal with cases of a spying drone or complaints of stalking or privacy.

Concerns regarding privacy issues associated with drone use should be referred to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner on 1300 363 992 or enquiries@oaic.gov.au

Further information.

For further information please visit

- the CASA website www.casa.gov.au/drone
- Shire's website www.coolgardie.wa.gov.au or Customer Service Counters at the Coolgardie and Kambalda Recreation Centre or by phoning the Development Services on 9080 2111 or email (planning@coolgardie.wa.gov.au)