

ROTTNEST IS

ROTTNEST ISLAND AUTHORITY POLICY

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (Drones)

1. OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles policy (the Policy) is to provide Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) officers with a framework to manage the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) on Rottnest Island.

Remotely piloted aircraft or UAVs, also commonly referred to as 'drones', are becoming increasingly popular particularly those fitted with camera equipment which allows both professional and amateur operators to capture aerial footage.

The use of UAVs is regulated by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) through the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1988 (Commonwealth law)*. In accordance with CASA regulations UAVs are prohibited from flying within 5.5 kms from an airfield; other relevant regulations are outlined below.

As there is an operating airport on Rottnest Island, the UAV exclusion zone rules out most of the Island apart from the West End. However, as Rottnest island is highly valued by its visitors as a tranquil environment and sanctuary for people to relax, the RIA will monitor and limit the use of UAVs on the Island, including the West End.

2. OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) policy are to:

- Preserve the tranquil environment on Rottnest Island and the privacy and safety of its visitors;
- Limit the volume of UAVs on the Island and ensure their use complies with national legislation; and
- Encourage a uniform and consistent approach to the approval and use of UAVs on Rottnest Island and identify responsibilities.

3. SCOPE

This policy covers the whole of the Rottnest Island Reserve and is applicable to all RIA staff and contractors.

4. DEFINITIONS

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) – commonly known as drones, is an **aircraft** without a human pilot aboard. Its flight is controlled either autonomously by onboard computers or by the remote control of a pilot on the ground or in another vehicle.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority – a Commonwealth statutory authority established under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*. Its key role is to establish a regulatory framework for maintaining, enhancing and promoting the safety of civil aviation in Australian territory, with particular emphasis on preventing aviation accidents and incidents.

5. POLICY STATEMENTS

It is the RIA's policy that:

- 5.1 *The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles on Rottnest Island must be approved by the RIA.*
- 5.2 *The RIA may approve the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles on the Island for commercial, public safety and research purposes as required.*
- 5.3 *The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles on the Island for recreational purposes is not permitted.*
- 5.4 *The RIA's Chief Executive Officer can exercise discretion in the application of this policy.*

6. CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY REGULATIONS

The full set of regulations which provide for UAVs can be viewed at section 101F of the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1988*. The following specific rules apply.

UAVs must not fly:

- Within 5.5 kilometers of an airfield
- Higher than 120 metres when in controlled airspace
- Closer than 30 metres to vehicles, boats, people or buildings
- Over any populous area such as beaches, other people's back yards, heavily populated parks or sports ovals where there is a game in progress
- For money or economic reward unless you have an unmanned certificate issued by CASA.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The General Manager Environment, Heritage, Risk and Safety is responsible for;

- assessing applications for the use of UAVs on Rottnest Island;
- limiting the volume of UAVs on Rottnest Island to ensure that the Island's tranquil environment is not adversely affected and that potential safety and privacy issues are avoided; and
- ensuring this policy remains current and is consistent with CASA Regulations.

The Manager Planning and Governance is responsible for ensuring that this policy is actively communicated to all RIA staff and that the policy is reviewed periodically by the policy custodian.

8. STATUTORY COMPLIANCE and RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION

The provisions of this policy are in addition to those contained in the following controls:

- *Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987*
- *Rottnest Island Regulations 1988*
- *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1988 (comlaw)*
- Rottnest Island Commercial Filming Policy

9. EFFECTIVE DATE

The Policy takes effect from 1 October 2015.

10. REVIEW DATE

The Policy will be reviewed every three years or as required in accordance with changes to relevant legislation.

11. POLICY CUSTODIAN

General Manager, Environment, Heritage, Risk and Safety.

12. POLICY AUTHORISATION

This policy details the RIA's control and management of UAVs on Rottnest Island.

Signed: 
Chief Executive Officer

8/10/2015
Date:

13. DOCUMENT REVISION

Revision	Revision Description	Prepared by:	Date	Page
1.0	Policy drafted.	L Bickers	23/09/15	

