

August 2021

Drone Starter Resources

If you are looking to buy (or have just bought) a drone to start exploring your photography from a different angle you may be confused by the sheer amount of information you need to understand to safely and legally fly in WA.

Since this information can change rapidly we have put together a set of links to help you on your way.

It is up to you as the pilot to ensure you understand and comply with the requirements.



The Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulates all flying of aircraft in Australia, this includes your Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) – note this is what your drone is called by CASA. While they regulate all aircraft, the information below is for RPAs that

- you are flying for recreation/photography (not on behalf of a company/commercial enterprise)
- weigh between 250g and 2Kg

as this is the most likely category to be flown by our members. (Links included may have additional information for other classes of RPA's as well).

According to CASA's definitions if you meet these two conditions you are deemed to be flying a model aircraft. This means that you:

- Must comply with CASA's Standard Operating Conditions (SOC)/[Drone Safety Rules](#)
- Will need to [register](#) your drone from March 2022 (not currently required August 2021)
- Anyone flying the drone must be [Accredited](#) from March 2022 (not currently required August 2021)

We recommend you [subscribe](#) to the CASA information site to get email updates as the rules are updated.

You should also consider the privacy of people when flying, while there is little [information available](#) to provide guidance here you should exercise common sense and avoid being in the situation where someone may believe you photographed them in a location where they have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Once you understand these rules the next step is to figure out where you can fly, and this is not as straightforward as you may hope. To meet CASA's rules on where you can fly you can use one of their [recommended apps](#).

Where can I fly?

The land from which you launch your drone can determine whether you are allowed to fly. The three main authorities which control where you can fly, are:

- State Government
- Local Councils
- Surveillance Devices Act (WA) (not covered here)

If you are not sure who controls the land you want to fly from you can use [SLIP](#) from Landgate to search. Go to the layer list drop down on the right and choose “Property and Planning” and then you can click on the coloured areas to see who controls what.

State Government

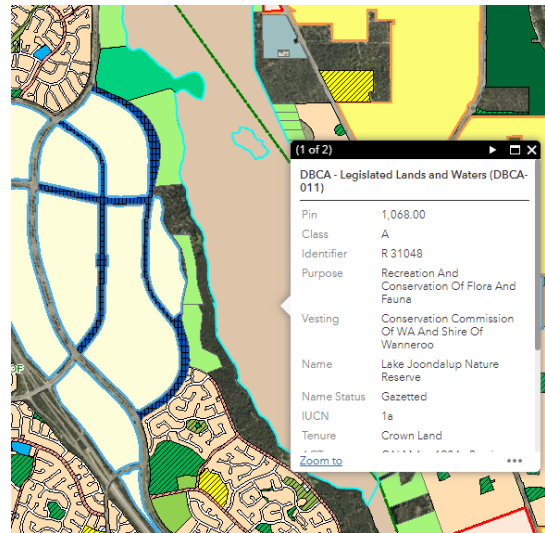
The main agency that controls land we would likely be flying from is the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) which includes [Parks and Wildlife Service](#) (DPAW).

They regulate drones for national parks, regional parks, conservation parks, marine parks, reserves and State forest. Read the details in the link above but in general terms they allow drone use as long as

- CASA rules are complied with and you are flying for recreational purposes
- The flying of RPA does not create a danger or nuisance for other visitors or disturb wildlife.
- You check there are not [prescribed burns](#) or other aerial operations underway

However they do note that recreational use of RPA is not permitted at Rottneest Island, Kings Park, Bold Park and Perth Zoo.


Keep in mind that other state government authorities may have relevant rules. For example, the Water Corporation controls the use of RPAs launched from dams land.



Local Councils

Unfortunately there is no single resource available to provide guidance as each local council regulates drones in its own way. If a link isn't available below for the council you are interested in,

For example



Returns a link to a [legal document](#), a subsequent search of the document returns

2.3 Motorised model aeroplanes, boats or drones

A person must not use, launch or fly a motorised model aeroplane, helicopter, toy, boat, glider, rocket or drone that is propelled by mechanical, hydraulic, combustion or pyrotechnic means on or from local government property except where a permit or a determination specifies a particular local government property.

it's best to use google and search for **[Council Name]** and **"Drone"**.

In general most Perth councils other than the City of Stirling seem to allow drone use or only restrict their use in specific reserves or locations. It seems they must enact specific legislation to ban drones so if you can't find it on their website then flying is likely allowed (but you need to decide for yourself) as long as you comply with CASA safety rules, don't cause a nuisance and don't photograph people where they would have an expectation of privacy.

Some resources are:

City of Stirling

Not allowed from council land except if your club has a permit to operate, and then only at the City's Yokine Regional Open Space Reserve, Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine, Hertha Road Reserve, Hertha Road, Stirling and Jackadder Lake, Blackbutt Road, Woodlands.

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/documents-and-publications/your-city/about-council/governance-and-transparency/policies/motorised-model-aeroplanes-policy>

<https://www.stirling.wa.gov.au/your-city/documents-and-publications/your-city/about-council/governance-and-transparency/local-laws/local-government-property-local-law>

City of Joondalup

The landing and launching of drones on Council land is currently not prohibited in any of the City of Joondalup parks and reserves, as long as the participant is not being a nuisance and is operating the drone in accordance with CASA rules and regulations.

<https://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/kb/resident/drones>

City of Wanneroo

We couldn't find any bans on drones so presume they are allowed

https://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/info/20001/sport_and_leisure/253/parks_and_reserves

No relevant local laws

https://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/downloads/download/22/local_laws

Town of Cambridge

Not allowed at the below locations, ok otherwise

- Cowden Park
- Rutter Park
- Grantham / Selby Park
- Henderson Park
- Pat Goodridge Reserve
- Perry Lakes/Alderbury Reserve
- McLean Park
- Floreat Park
- Beecroft Park
- Helston Park
- Jubilee Park
- City Beach Ovals
- Bent Park

<https://www.cambridge.wa.gov.au/Community/Rangers/Drones>

City of South Perth

You may fly your drone from council land

<https://southperth.wa.gov.au/community/services/flying-of-drones>

City of Swan

Allowed as long as you don't cause a nuisance to others

A person shall not, on any reserve or foreshore fly or operate, whether remote controlled or not, any mechanically operated model vehicle, model boat or model aeroplane in such a manner as to endanger any person or property or be a nuisance to any other person

[https://www.swan.wa.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/documents-amp-publications/forms-amp-documents/local-laws/city_of_swan_consolidated_local_laws_2005_with_2008_2010_amendments\[1\].doc](https://www.swan.wa.gov.au/files/assets/public/document-resources/documents-amp-publications/forms-amp-documents/local-laws/city_of_swan_consolidated_local_laws_2005_with_2008_2010_amendments[1].doc)

Further Reading and Resources

Great one page summary of the CASA rules can be found [here](#)

CASA video explaining the rules can be found [here](#)

An online quiz to check you know the rules can be found [here](#)

Detailed RPA category information can be found [here](#)



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