

Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Policy

Group responsible: Strategic Manager (Property)

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1 Purpose

This policy sets out the conditions for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) on Council owned or controlled land.

2 Definitions and abbreviations

TERM	MEANING
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)	<p>The term UAV covers all electric powered remote controlled model aircraft, including the type commonly referred to as “drones” that are capable of vertical take-off and landing and small hand-launched gliders less than 1.5 metre wing span.</p> <p>UAVs are also known as drones, Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems and Unmanned Aerial Systems.</p> <p>The term UAV does not include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed wing electric-powered model aircraft greater than 1 metre wing span. • All fixed - winged model aircraft that are internal combustion engine (petrol) powered. • Gliders greater than 1.5 metre wing span and bungee-launched gliders. • Single rotor helicopters that are electric powered or internal combustion engine (petrol) powered. • Jet powered models.
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY RULES / CAA RULES	<p>Civil Aviation Rules are set by the Minister of Transport. The rules are divided into parts. The two parts relevant to UAVs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 101: <i>Gyrogliders and Parasails, Unmanned Aircraft (including Balloons), Kites, and Rockets - Operating Rules</i>, and • Part 102: <i>Unmanned Aircraft Operator Certification</i>.

3 Background

Under rules introduced by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on 1 August 2015, Council can grant or decline consent for the use of UAVs on property that it owns or controls. This policy establishes criteria for UAV use over Council owned and controlled land in the Southland District.

4 Policy details

4.1 General Criteria

In addition to the CAA rules, the following criteria apply to the use of UAVs over land or property owned or controlled by Southland District Council. They do not apply to the use of UAVs by Southland District Council.

Operators of UAVs must:

- Comply with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner guidance on preserving peoples' personal privacy by not flying over other people or adjoining private property without their consent.
- Be courteous of other park users, who often are there for the quiet enjoyment of Council's parks, reserves and open spaces.
- Wear a high visibility vest.

4.2 Restrictions

Operators do not need approval to use UAVs over land or property owned or controlled by the Southland District Council except in the following situations:

- a) Standard Restrictions
 - Over a sports field if in use by others, or within 50 metres of any organised activity taking place in a reserve or Council controlled open space.
 - Over or above Council owned or controlled cemeteries, commercial forestry or formed roads.
 - Over or within 50 metres of other users of open spaces. If another open space user moves within this range, the UAV user must immediately land their UAV.
 - Over or within 50 metres of any building on Council land or any playground equipment or swimming pool.
 - Within 50 metres of livestock, wildlife or sensitive wildlife habitats. If livestock or wildlife move within this range, the UAV user must immediately land their UAV.
 - Within 50 metres of a reserve boundary where residential housing or stock farming adjoins.
 - Within 100 metres of another UAV user.

b) Restricted Areas

- The Te Anau lakefront being all that area of Council owned and administered land from the Marakura Yacht Club to Blue Gum Point for a distance of up to 60 metres right angles from the physical edge of Lake Te Anau.

Written Council approval must also be obtained for any organised event involving the use of UAVs.

If requested to cease operations by Council officers operators must land their UAV immediately.

If the Council owned land or property is held under a lease or licence from Council, or there is an organised event taking place, the applicant must obtain written approval from the lessee, licensee or the event organiser, prior to seeking approval from Council. Operators of UAVs must comply with any additional conditions imposed by the lessee, licensee or event organiser.

Council's approval can be sought by making a written request to Council's property department. Council will notify the applicant about whether or not approval has been granted. If a request to fly a UAV in a restricted situation is declined, Council will outline the reasons why.

4.3 Prohibited Areas

There are some areas where the use of UAVs is prohibited in all instances, with the exception of emergency services only. These areas are:

- There are no prohibited areas.

4.4 Reporting incidents and near misses

UAV users must report all incidents and near misses of a significant nature (such as those involving people and property (including animals, buildings and power lines)) to Southland District Council. This obligation also extends to other reserve users involved in any incident or near miss relating to UAV use.

4.5 Enforcement

Any breach of the above conditions could result in termination of your permission to fly unmanned aircraft over Council land.

Council will report breaches to the Civil Aviation Authority, which may result in infringements or prosecution.

5. Associated documents

- Civil Aviation Authority Rules and Guidelines: <http://www.caa.govt.nz/rpas/>
- Southland District Council District Reserves Management Policy