

ASS 025: INTERNAL DRONE (REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM) USE

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Objective

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all legislated requirements for the use of Shire of Esperance owned and/or managed drone technology, which is also referred to as 'remotely piloted aircraft system' (RPAS) technology, is applied and adhered to by shire staff, as well as the management and use of data collected by the RPA.

Policy

Remote Piloted Aircraft System will increase the efficiency of Shires corporate and operational activity across the municipality. The below parameters are to be adhered to when operating a RPAS.

1. The primary purposes of a Shire owned RPAS is to:
 - Collect data of Shire owned assets
 - Collect data relating to Asset Management projects
 - To assist with emergency services operations at the request of the emergency services Incident Controller
 - To collect data for Shire promotions and events.

Any application of the RPAS outside of these purposes will require written authorisation from the CEO or if relevant, the private property owner. This will occur only where a clear benefit to Council or the community can be demonstrated.

2. The operation of the RPAS is controlled by the Shires RPAS Operation Manual, is governed by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and determined by the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101 (CASR101). All CASA regulations and guidelines are to be adhered to at all times when piloting an RPAS.
3. RPAS flight paths should avoid transit over private property unless impractical.
4. Any and all data collected or recorded by the RPAS, including geospatial data is owned by Council and subject to the Privacy Act 1988, Surveillance Devices Act 1988 and Shire of Esperance Code of Conduct. Recordings are subject to the legislated Information Privacy Principles that determine the storage and retention of data.

5. Data is considered and managed by:
 - Collecting (or recording) only for a specific purpose in support of a Council function;
 - Reviewing to redact inadvertently collected personal data; and
 - Editing to dispose of data that is not required.
6. During assistance with emergency services operations, the RPAS operations are directed by the emergency services Incident Controller and the requirements stipulated in section 2.

Definitions:

CASA Civil Aviation Safety Australia

CASR Civil Aviation Safety Regulations

Drone ‘Drone’, in a technological context, is an unmanned aircraft. This term is used interchangeably with ‘remotely piloted aircraft system’.

Shire Shire of Esperance

RPAS ‘Remotely piloted aircraft system’ is the common term used to reference an unmanned aircraft. This term is used interchangeably with ‘drone’.

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