



## INFORMATION – USE OF DRONES AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS & CENTENNIAL PARKLANDS

### PURPOSE

This document outlines information regarding the use of drones, or Remotely Piloted Aircrafts (RPA), for events and commercial filming in the Botanic Gardens and Centennial Parklands (BGCP). It provides guidance and procedures to be followed to operate drones safely and effectively.

### BACKGROUND

The use of drones is a relatively new and emerging industry and BGCP is seeing an increase in requests for this type of activity. Our priority remains focused on public and event patron safety as well as compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

### LAWS & REGULATIONS

Use of a drone will only be permitted in BGCP if its use is compliant with the law and CASA regulations and operated by qualified and CASA certified persons in a controlled environment.

Operating a Drone on BGCP land without written consent from BGCP is an offence and a breach of the Royal Botanic Garden & Domain Trust Regulations, Part 7, Clause 34 and/or of the Centennial Park & Moore Park Trust Regulations, Part 18, Clause (a).

All commercial drone use regardless of size and type requires BGCP approval to take-off or land on Trust land. Recreational use of drones is prohibited on Trust land.

Please note that additional consultation and/or permission may also be required to fly a drone near highly sensitive areas adjacent to the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney and the Domain, including Government House, Sydney Opera House and NSW Parliament.

### CERTIFICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

- CASA issued RPA Operators Certificate (ReOC)
- CASA issued Remote Pilot Licence (RePL) or UAV Operations Certificate (UOC) for each proposed operator
- A copy of the drone operating types & nominated personnel from the ReOC operations manual
- A copy of the Public Liability Insurance certificate of the drone operator's company (\$20M)
- Flight risk assessment
- Flight site map – including take-off & landing location and flight path
- Any required CASA issued exemptions as listed below.

Operators of drones weighing less than 2kgs (Sub 2 Kilo drones) that do not fulfil the above certifications & documents will not be permitted to operate a drone on Trust land.

## **SAFETY INFORMATION**

- DO NOT fly closer than 30 meters to vehicles, boats, buildings or people without a CASA exemption - please note this also applies to trees.
- DO NOT fly over any populated areas such as heavily populated parks, large events or sports ovals where there is a game in progress.
- DO NOT operate within 3 nautical miles or 5.5 km of a controlled aerodrome or helicopter landing site without CASA approval.
- ONLY operate your drone during daylight (unless with CASA exemption), good weather and in visual-line-of-sight. Drone operations beyond pilot's visual-line-of-sight require a CASA area approval.
- DO NOT fly above 400ft/120m AGL (Above Ground Level).
- Operations within restricted airspace requires approval from the controlling authority – this may be CASA.
- Operations within military airspace requires military approval (LOA -letter of agreement) and CASA approval.
- Operators are to operate keeping within the privacy legislation.

## **BGCP PROCEDURE- the following steps must be completed at least 5 working days prior to the proposed flying date in order to obtain BGCP Executive approval:**

- ✓ Completed Filming & Photography application form (when applicable)
- ✓ Copies of all the above-mentioned certifications and documents must be supplied by the applicant, including flight site plan and risk assessment
- ✓ Site visit must be scheduled with the applicant, the drone operator and the venue representative to ascertain feasibility and safety of each proposed location
- ✓ Written approvals from other surrounding government agencies (as applicable), such as Government House and Sydney Opera House, must be supplied by the applicant
- ✓ Proof of notifying NSW Police and Roads & Maritime Services (the latter for operations above Sydney Harbour) must be supplied by the applicant
- ✓ Spotters or barricading plan enforcing the required 30m clearance from the public must be supplied by the applicant
- ✓ Pedestrian control plan and traffic control plan if drone operations are near pathways or roadways must be supplied by the applicant

Additionally, Ranger Security Officer resources must be engaged through BGCP at a cost to the applicant to monitor compliance to the conditions of approval provided by BGCP.

## **MORE INFORMATION & REFERENCES**

<https://www.casa.gov.au/aircraft/landing-page/flying-drones-australia> or call CASA on 131 757

<https://casa.dronecomplier.com/external>

<https://droneflyer.com.au/>