

USE OF DRONES ON COUNCIL PROPERTY

DATE ADOPTED: 20 MARCH
2018



TE WAIROA
WAIROA DISTRICT

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:	Chief Operating Officer	FILE REFERENCE:	
CATEGORY:	Regulatory	STATUS:	FINAL
DATE POLICY ADOPTED:	20 March 2018	APPROVAL BY:	Council
REVIEW PERIOD:	5 years and as required	NEXT REVIEW DUE BY:	2023
DATE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:	Not applicable	REVISION NUMBER:	1

INTRODUCTION

Property owner consent is required to fly drones/UAVs/model aircraft over land that is owned, managed or leased by Council. This policy outlines the Council’s approach to property owner consent.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulates civil aviation in New Zealand, and sets the rules around the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), model aircraft and drones – unmanned aircraft.

New rules introduced by the CAA came into effect on 1 August 2015. These rules require people to obtain approval from the land owner or the occupier of the land you want to fly over. This rule comes in addition to the existing CAA and Air Traffic Control rules on where and how you can fly unmanned aircraft, and what permissions you need to get before doing so.

This policy covers all electric powered remote controlled model aircraft of 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 metres in wing span (unmanned aircraft). You are only permitted to fly unmanned aircraft weighing less than 25 kilograms on public land. However, anyone operating an unmanned aircraft that weighs between 15 and 25 kilograms must be a member of an organisation approved by the CAA (e.g. Model Flying New Zealand).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the use of drones/UAVs/model aircraft on or over Council property and facilities.

PERMITTED AREAS

War Memorial Park

Lambton Square

Clyde Domain

Wairoa Riverbank reserve – from Spooner’s Point to Pilot Hill

Pohutukawa reserve at Mahia – excluding 100m from the playground

Permission is granted in these areas on the condition that you:

- Abide by the Civil Aviation Authority Rules;
- Do not operate during a fire ban period;
- Do not fly over people with a camera without obtaining their permission, especially if you are capturing video, photos or other data;
- Are courteous of other users of the area;
- Cease operation if requested by a Council officer; and,
- Do not use any data captured for commercial purposes without permission from Council (please direct enquiries to the Chief Executive Officer).

FLYING ON OR OVER OTHER AREAS

If you wish to fly over or on an area owned by Council not permitted under this policy then you will need to apply for a permit and pay a fee.

If you wish to fly over the road corridor then you will need to complete a Corridor Access Request.

To apply for an Unmanned Aircraft Flight Permit you must be able to have evidence of the following:

- Qualification of your abilities to fly your unmanned aircraft
- Confirmation that the intended flight has been logged on www.airshare.co.nz

Under the Public Safety Bylaw if you are caught flying in non-permitted areas without a permit you will be infringed.

APPLICATION OF POLICY

This policy applies to all pilots of unmanned aircraft except the following:

- Council staff undertaking work-related flights including training flights
- Emergency services staff undertaking work-related flights