

Policy on flying drones (UAVs) on, in and around Hutt City Council parks and reserves

1. Introduction

New rules introduced by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requiring people to obtain Hutt City Council approval to operate Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) on public land came in to effect 1 August 2015.

This policy permits persons flying drones for recreational purposes to use Hutt City Council owned and managed parks and reserves, with the exception of Taita Cemetery, subject to the conditions set out below.

2. Scope

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 1.5m wing span.

3. Conditions

Persons flying drones for recreational purposes are permitted to use council parks and reserves but must abide by the following conditions;

- Comply with the Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) rules relating to the mode of operating UAVs, including keeping under at all times the maximum flying height restriction of 120 metres.
- Comply with the Hutt City Council Parks and Reserves Bylaw 2007
- Comply with the Hutt City Council Public Places Bylaw 2006
- Comply with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner guidance on preserving peoples’ personal privacy by not flying over other people using the park or over adjoining private property.
- Be courteous of other park users, who often have visited the park for the quiet enjoyment of the park
- Not operate over a sports field if in use by others
- Not fly over any parked vehicles or roads.
- Not operate within 20 metres of or be flown over other users of the park or livestock
- Not operate within 20 metres of sensitive wildlife habitats.
- Not operate within 20 metres of nesting or roosting birds, such as the NZ dotterel.
- Not operate within 20 metres of or be flown over a park building.
- Not operate during a prohibited fire season.
- Not overfly adjoining private property.
- Be in full view of the operator at all times (e.g. not visible through binoculars, or operated via monitor, or smartphone only)

- Be flown in daylight hours only, and
- Cease operation if requested by a member of the public or Council staff.

Any person proposing to use a UAV for commercial purposes, such as filming, must obtain specific permission from Council.

Any breach of the above conditions could result in termination of the individual's permission to use Council land for the above purposes.

For more information phone 570 6666

Exclusions

This policy **does not cover** the use of the following types of powered aircraft;

- Fixed wing electric-powered model aircraft greater than 1m wing span
- All fixed- winged model aircraft that are internal combustion engine (petrol) powered.
- Gliders greater than 1.5 m wing span and bungee-launched gliders
- Single rotor helicopters that are electric powered or internal combustion engine (petrol) powered
- Jet powered models - This class of model aircraft can only be flown on private property or officially recognised sites under the control of approved operators, such as model aircraft clubs.

For rules governing the use of these types of aircraft please contact the Civil Aviation Authority.