

2025

Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

If media including team media plans to use drones at any of the following locations—[Hidden Valley](#), Gunn Point Road, along the challenge route, or the finish line—you must follow the approval process outlined below.

Legal Requirements (CASA)

CASA regulates drone use to ensure safety. You must comply with CASA rules. Visit their [website](#) and review the attached [factsheet](#) for details.

Please refer to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) which outlines the Australian requirements for flying drones. Please refer to the attached.

Note: CASA classifies drones used to capture team footage as commercial use.

Steps to Get Drone Approval:

- 1) Apply for accreditation via the World Solar Challenge media process [World Solar Challenge/media](#).
- 2) Ensure your insurance covers drone operations.
- 3) Meet CASA requirements based on your drone type:
 - Micro RPA ($\leq 250\text{g}$): [aviation reference number \(ARN\)](#), [RPA operator](#), [accreditation](#), [register your drone](#)
 - Very small RPA ($\leq 2\text{kg}$): ARN, accreditation, registration and only fly your drone within the [standard operating conditions](#)
- 4) Download a CASA drone safety app.
- 5) Request event approval by emailing your details as above to:
teams@worldsolarchallenge.org for team media
media@worldsolarchallenge.org for Tier 1 registered media

Process for application for approval from the Event Organiser

Provisional approval will be sent in writing.

Final approval is issued in person at the Event Help Desk (Hidden Valley).

Accredited operators must confirm flights between 10 August and 24 August, a minimum of 24 hours in advance, in person to the Event Help Desk.

After the Official Start Line, coordinate via Mission Control (Adelaide) and submit your flight logs within 24 hours of flying.



Rules for flying

Once approved by CASA and the event, you must:

- only fly one drone at a time
- always fly your drone in visual line-of-sight — this means:
 - flying only during the day
 - avoid flying through cloud, fog or smoke
 - you can always see your drone with your own eyes — not by using goggles, binoculars or another device
 - not flying behind obstacles that stop you from always seeing your drone. For example, trees, buildings or other structures.

You must not fly your drone:

- higher than 120 m (400 ft) above ground level — that's about the height of a 35-storey building or length of a football field
- closer than 30 m to people — other than those helping to control or navigate your drone
- over or above people at any time or height — a crowded beach, busy road, sporting event, concert or wedding are all populous areas
- in a way that creates a hazard to another person, property or aircraft
- near emergency operations
- in prohibited or restricted airspace (use a CASA-verified drone safety app to help you)
- closer than 5.5 km to a controlled airport, which usually has a control tower, **if your drone weighs more than 250 g.**

Flying within 5.5km of a controlled airport

At a controlled airport, there is increased air traffic and there are strict rules about where you can and cannot fly.

You can fly a drone that weighs 250 g or less within 5.5 km (3 NM) from any point along a runway centreline of a controlled airport, provided you do not:

- fly over the movement area
- fly over or in the departure or approach path
- create a collision hazard to other aircraft taking off or landing.

You must use a [drone safety app](#) to see where you can fly.

Flying within 5.5km of a non-controlled airport

You can fly your drone within 5.5 km (3 NM) from any point along a runway centreline of a non-controlled airport or helicopter landing site if:

- there are no piloted aircraft flying to or from the airport
- you stay outside the boundary

If your drone is in the air and you see a piloted aircraft flying to or from the airport, you must land your drone as soon as safely possible.

Military airport

It's important that you don't fly your drone near military-controlled airports without approval. Commercial operators can apply to fly in the no-fly zone of a military controlled airport. The Event organizer is consulting with ADF to arrange approval for Hidden Valley.



Hidden Valley and Finish Line- requirements

For drone flights at Hidden Valley and/or Victoria Square finish line, the approval process as above must be completed along with the documented process:

1. The pilot has a risk assessment that includes:
 - a. Reason for drone flight;
 - b. CASA Certification and registration details;
 - c. Date/time for the planned flight;
 - d. Nominated flight area (these will be provided in future team notices);
 - e. Weather forecast conditions;
 - f. Maximum height the drone will be flown;
 - g. The CASA approved drone app that will be used for the flight (see *special note below);
 - h. Team members assisting/involved with flight – their roles and safety instructions;
 - i. The pilot confirms they are aware of and flying within the [CASA Drone Safety The dos and don'ts of flying](#)

*Special notes related to Micro RPA's:



Micro RPA are permitted to be flown within 5.5 km (3 NM) of the movement area of a controlled aerodrome provided they are:

- > *not operated over the movement area*
- > *not operated over or in the departure or approach path*
- > *not operated inside the boundary of the aerodrome*
- > *not creating a collision hazard to other aircraft taking off or landing.*

Types of RPA that can be operated as 'excluded' RPA

(CASR 101.237)

Micro RPA (250 g or less)

Micro RPA can be used for commercial activities (payment or reward). You do not need to hold a RePL, but you will need to


- > be 16 years or older to obtain a valid RPA operator accreditation
- > register your RPA before the first flight
- > operate your RPA in standard RPA operating conditions at all times.

Micro RPA may be operated in controlled airspace, including within 5.5 km (3 NM) of a controlled aerodrome, but must remain below 120 m (400 ft) and never be operated in the approach and departure paths of the aerodrome or within the grounds of the aerodrome.

Extracted from CASR PART 101 | MICRO AND EXCLUDED REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS | VERSION 2.1 – page 16 and page 4

If you have any questions regarding drone safety approval for Hidden Valley, please contact the Chief Safety Officer safety@worldsolarchallenge.org


Know your drone - safety rules factsheet




Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

KNOW YOUR DRONE

FLYING FOR FUN: DRONE SAFETY RULES




You must not fly your drone higher than 120 m above ground level.




You must keep your drone at least 30 m away from other people and never fly over a person.




You must only fly one drone at a time.



Only fly during daylight hours.




You must not fly in a populous area. This includes beaches, parks, events, or sport ovals during games.




You must not fly your drone in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, person or property. Respect others' privacy.




Keep your drone within visual line-of-sight. This means you must always be able to see it with your own eyes (not through a device, screen or goggles). Don't fly through cloud, fog or smoke.




You must not fly your drone over or near areas affecting public safety or where emergency operations are underway. This includes ambulance, police, search and rescue, or firefighting efforts.




If your drone weighs more than 250 g, you must not fly within 5.5 km of a controlled airport (airports with control towers). If it's 250 g or less, you can fly up to 45 m high within 5.5 km but stay out of the airport boundary and don't create hazards for other aircraft. Regardless of weight, stay clear of the runway approach and departure paths.



Near smaller airports without control towers, you can fly your drone within 5.5 km. If you become aware of crewed aircraft nearby, move away and land your drone quickly and safely.



If you're within 1.4 km of a helicopter landing site and become aware of a helicopter nearby, taking off or landing, you must move your drone away and land it safely.



If you fly your drone for work (commercially), extra rules apply. You must register your drone and get a licence or accreditation. If you only fly for fun, no registration or accreditation is needed.

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