

Using drones in national parks



Photo: J.Spencer/OEH

You need approval to launch, land or operate a drone from within a national park or other reserve managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The NPWS Drones in parks policy provides information on using drones and how to apply for approval. Commercial use of drones in national parks is subject to the Filming and photography policy.

Before you fly a drone in a park

- Get approval from NPWS – see the Drones in parks policy.
- Check the NPWS Alerts page for the park you intend to fly in for any incidents or events that will stop you flying.
- Read and make sure you comply with CASA's drone safety rules at droneflyer.gov.au.

When flying a drone in a park

- Only fly in the park, or part of the park, that you have approval for.
- Carry a paper or electronic copy of your approval with you.
- Fly according to CASA's drone safety rules, which include:
 - keeping at least 30 metres away from people and not flying directly above people
 - keeping your drone in sight
 - not flying higher than 120 metres above the ground and staying 5.5 kilometres away from controlled aerodromes

- not operating your drone in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, person, or property.

- Stop immediately if emergency or bushfire operations are occurring.
- Stay at least 100 metres away from whales and other marine mammals.

Check the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website for details (www.environment.nsw.gov.au) or contact 131 555 for more information.

DPIE Approaching marine mammals: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/native-animals/native-animal-facts/whales/whale-watching-in-nsw/approaching-marine-mammals-in-nsw

NPWS Alerts: www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/alerts/alerts-list

NPWS Drones in parks policy: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/drones-in-parks

NPWS Filming and photography policy: www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-policies/filming-and-photography