

# Drone use in ForestrySA reserves

These guidelines are designed to assist owner/operators wishing to use drones for commercial and recreational use in ForestrySA reserves. All activities in Forest Reserves must comply with the provisions of relevant regulations.

**Definition of a drone:** Remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

Permission is required to operate a drone or any other remotely piloted aircraft (RPA) of Forestry reserves. A Permit must be obtained via the ForestrySA website: [www.forestrysa.com.au](http://www.forestrysa.com.au) and the following guidelines must be adhere to.

## Accessing Forest Reserves

There is no entry to ForestrySA reserves on Total Fire Ban days. All Forest Reserves are closed at night and some Forest Reserves will be closed from time to time for management or other purposes. Please check the Forest Reserves is open before you visit.

You MUST NOT operate your drone in prohibited or restricted areas including ForestrySA Headquarters, depots and work areas.

## Fire Season (1 December to 30 April)

During fire season all drone owner/operators must carry a fire extinguisher and rake or spade.

## Respecting others

**Drones MUST NOT be flown within 30m of people or above campgrounds or accommodation facilities.**

Drones MUST NOT be flown over or near an area affecting public safety or where emergency operations are underway (without prior approval). This could include situations such as a car crash, Police operations, a fire and associated firefighting efforts, and search and rescue operations.

Please ensure that you respect the expectations of other people enjoying our Forest Reserves. If your activity intends to film other people including Aboriginal cultural sites, Aboriginal people or Aboriginal culture, you must obtain consent prior to filming.

## Be responsible

**Operators may fly only one drone at a time.**

Drones must be kept within visual line of sight of the owner/operator. This means being able to orientate, always navigate and see the aircraft with your own eyes (rather than through a device; for example, through goggles or on a device screen).

Drones MUST NOT be flown higher than 120 metres (400 ft) above the ground or in a way that creates a hazard to other aircraft, person or property.

**NOTE:** Any costs incurred by owner/operators to retrieve lost drones or RPA are the responsibility of the owner/operator. ForestrySA does not retrieve drones or RPA on behalf of owner/operators.



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## Protecting Wildlife and other animals

**Drone ARE NOT PERMITTED to be flown in Native Forest Reserves.**

Drones have the potential to cause harm or distress to birds, wildlife and domestic animals. Owners/operators must ensure to not intentionally disturb wildlife, horse riders and local domestic animals or stock in neighbouring paddocks.

## Aerodromes and airfields

If your drone weighs more than 100 grams it must be flown a minimum 5.5km from controlled aerodromes (usually those with a control tower).

Drones may fly within 5.5km of a non-controlled aerodrome or helicopter landing site (HLS) only if manned aircraft are not operating to or from the aerodrome. This includes:

- Not operating your drone within the airfield boundary (without approval)
- Not operating your drone in the approach and departure paths of the aerodrome (without approval).

## Commercial Filming or Photography

Filming or photography is defined as “commercial” when the intention is to promote a product or service and/or achieve financial gain from the filming or photography.

All commercial use of drones and RPA require an additional photography permit.

Thirty (30) days written notice of intent is required from the permit applicant, giving a detailed description of the activity proposed, including where relevant a copy of the script (if applicable) together with arranged proposed itinerary.

A minimum ten million dollar (\$10, 000 000) public liability with Certificate of Currency is required.

Please acknowledge ForestrySA in any published products.

### For further information

If you are unsure if your activity is permitted or have any other questions, please contact:

ForestrySA

Telephone: (08) 8391 8800

Email: [recreation@forestrysa.com.au](mailto:recreation@forestrysa.com.au)