

Notice is given that Council Workshop will be held on:

**Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2026  
**Time:** 9:30am - Giving Consent to Fly Unmanned  
**Meeting Room:** Aircraft over Council Land Policy  
**Venue:** Tasman Council Chamber  
189 Queen Street, Richmond

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## Workshop

# WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

**The public is welcome to attend and observe open workshops**

Workshops are not meetings and **cannot be used to either make decisions or come to agreements** that are then confirmed without the opportunity for meaningful debate at a formal meeting. An outcome of a workshop is likely to be a report to Council or a committee.

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### ATTENDEES

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mayor T King	
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Deputy Mayor B Maru	
<b>Members</b>	Cr C Butler	Cr D McNamara
	Cr J Ellis	Cr P Morgan
	Cr K Ferneyhough	Cr K Maling
	Cr M Greening	Cr T Neubauer
	Cr J Gully	Cr T Walker
	Cr M Hume	Cr D Woods
	Cr M Kininmonth	

No quorum for workshops

Contact Telephone: (03) 543 8989  
Email: [tina.marshall@tasman.govt.nz](mailto:tina.marshall@tasman.govt.nz)  
Website: [www.tasman.govt.nz](http://www.tasman.govt.nz)

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# PROGRAMME

- 1 WELCOME
- 2 APOLOGIES
- 3 WORKSHOP MATERIAL
  - 3.1 Update of Policy on Giving Consent to Fly Unmanned Aircraft Over Council Land ..... 4

### 3 WORKSHOP MATERIAL

#### 3.1 UPDATE OF POLICY ON GIVING CONSENT TO FLY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OVER COUNCIL LAND

<b>Report To:</b>	Workshop
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	11 March 2026
<b>Report Author:</b>	Alan Bywater, Team Leader - Community Policy
<b>Report Authorisers:</b>	Sue McLean, Kaiwhakahaere ā Rōpū – Te Pae Rautaki Ahumoni   Group Manager - Strategy & Finance
<b>Report Number:</b>	RCW26-03-4

#### 1. Workshop

<b>Workshop Organiser:</b>	Alan Bywater, Team Leader Community Policy
<b>Workshop Topic:</b>	Updating Policy on Giving Consent to Fly Unmanned Aircraft over Council Land
<b>Workshop Objective:</b>	To inform elected members of work to update this policy and upcoming consultation on it.

#### 2. Workshop Material

Workshop material is attached.

#### 3. Attachments / Tuhinga tāpiri

1. <a href="#">↓</a>	Interim Policy on Giving Consent to Fly Unmanned Aircraft Over Council Land - 2015	5
2. <a href="#">↓</a>	Draft Policy on Giving Permission to Fly Unmanned Aircraft Over Council Land - 2026	9
3. <a href="#">↓</a>	Presentation Flying Unmanned Aircraft Policy	16

## Interim policy giving consent to fly unmanned aircraft over Council land

Policy effective from 15 September 2015

### Policy Summary

Provided you follow the CAA operating rules and subject to conditions\*, you have Tasman District Council's permission to fly unmanned aircraft over Council land, with the exception of:

- Council offices and libraries;
- Council land managed as plantation forest;
- Mapua precinct and wharf area, and Waterfront Park;
- Washbourn Gardens;
- Pethybridge Rose Gardens;
- Takaka Memorial Gardens;
- Council cemeteries;
- Motueka sandspit (Council owned portion. Refer to the Department of Conservation on rules for its portion of the spit);
- any Council land that is leased to another party (e.g. bowling greens, tennis courts, grazing licences); and
- any location on Council land during an organised gathering of people (including sporting events).

*Council may consider specific requests to fly over these areas.*

If you want to fly over land within the 4km zones around aerodromes, you will either need to stick to shielded operation (stay low), or obtain permission from the aerodrome operator and comply with their requirements. Council's Property Services Manager is the aerodrome operator for the Motueka Aerodrome.

### \*Tasman District Council conditions when flying unmanned aircraft over Council land

- Comply with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner guidance on preserving peoples' personal privacy by not flying over other people or adjoining private property without their consent.
- Be courteous of other park users, who often are there for the quiet enjoyment of the park.
- Do not operate over a sports field if in use by others.
- Do not operate within 20 metres of or be flown over other users of a park or livestock.
- Do not operate within 20 metres of sensitive wildlife habitats (such as coastal or river margins).
- Do not operate within 20 metres of nesting or roosting birds (such as godwits, banded rail, terns, NZ dotterel).
- Do not operate within 20 metres of, or be flown over, any building on Council land.
- Do not operate during a fire ban period.
- Cease operation if requested by Council staff.
- Any person proposing to use unmanned aircraft for commercial purposes must obtain specific permission from Council.

Any breach of the above conditions could result in termination of your permission to fly unmanned aircraft over Council land.

### Introduction

Property owner consent is required to fly drones/UAVs/model aircraft over land that is owned, managed or leased by Council. This page outlines the interim approach Tasman District Council is taking to property owner consent. The interim approach will be reviewed once national guidance from Local Government New Zealand becomes available.

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.

*Council isn't responsible for setting, monitoring or enforcing these rules, but we are summarising them here in an attempt to make them clearer to users, especially casual UAV/drone operators.*

## Where can you fly and what permissions do you need?

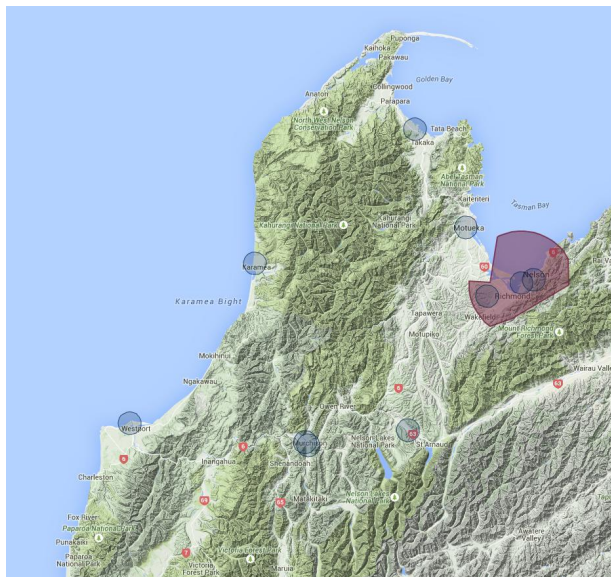
### General CAA rules and Air Traffic Control

Part of Tasman District (including Rabbit Island, the Waimea Plains, Eves Valley and parts of Redwood Valley and the Richmond Range) sits below the Nelson controlled airspace. This means that if you want to fly anything in that airspace, you need permission from Air Traffic Control.

In addition, CAA defines four-kilometre zones around all aerodromes, where the use of the airspace is further restricted. In these zones, you need to have a pilot licence (or to be accompanied by someone who does) in addition to having permission from Air Traffic Control. This restriction applies specifically to any aerodrome listed in the Aeronautical Publication of New Zealand. These aerodromes are shown on the map linked to below.

In the case of the 4km zone around the Motueka Aerodrome, 'Flight Restriction Zones' have been established to protect aircraft using this aerodrome. Within the Purple flight restriction zone you can fly up to 20 metres above sea level without prior approval. If you want to fly higher than 20 metres above sea level you will also need permission from The Property Services Manager at Council (he is the Motueka Aerodrome Operator).

- [Map of controlled airspace and 4km zones](#) (shows the controlled airspace for Nelson Airport and the location of aerodromes at Takaka, Motueka, Eves Valley, Nelson, Lake Station/Nelson Lakes, Murchison and Murchison Hospital)
- [Aeronautical Publication of New Zealand](#)
- [Flight Restriction Zones for the Motueka Aerodrome](#)



Airspaces within Tasman District:

- NZMR – Murchison
- NZUR – Murchison Hospital
- NZLE – Lake Station/Nelson Lakes
- NZTK – Takaka
- NZMK – Motueka
- NZEV – Eves Valley
- NZNS – Nelson (controlled aerodrome)
- Nelson controlled airspace

To obtain authorisation from Air Traffic Control, register and log your flights on the [Airshare UAV hub](#). The hub also provides a wealth of other information, including links to the CAA rules and news on the UAV industry.

### Exemption: shielded operations

You don't need to get a pilot licence or Air Traffic Control authorisation if you're flying as a "shielded operation" which CAA defines as "an operation of an aircraft within 100m of, and below the top of, a natural or man-made object". This means you can fly your unmanned aircraft in Tasman District as long as you keep your aircraft lower than the highest tree / building / ridge within 100m of where you're standing.

But you need to have permission from landowners first.

## Landowner / occupier permission

The new rules introduced by the CAA require people to obtain approval from the landowner or the occupier of the land you want to fly over. What this means:

### On private land

Fly over your own property or get permission from whoever owns / occupies / is in charge of the land you want to fly over.

### On land owned, managed or leased by Council (including parks and reserves)

Provided you follow the CAA operating rules and subject to Council's conditions (set out below), you have Tasman District Council's permission to fly unmanned aircraft over Council land, with the exception of:

- Council offices and libraries;
- Council land managed as plantation forest;
- Mapua precinct and wharf area, and Waterfront Park;
- Washbourn Gardens;
- Pethybridge Rose Gardens;
- Takaka Memorial Gardens;
- Council cemeteries;
- Motueka sandspit (Council owned portion. Refer to the Department of Conservation on rules for its portion of the spit);
- any Council land that is leased to another party (e.g. bowling greens, tennis courts, grazing licences); and
- any location on Council land during an organised gathering of people (including sporting events).

*Council may consider specific requests to fly over these areas.*

If you want to fly over land within the 4km zones around aerodromes, you will either need to stick to shielded operation (stay low), or obtain permission from the aerodrome operator and comply with their requirements. Council's Property Services Manager is the aerodrome operator for the Motueka Aerodrome.

The CAA rule also says you need to get consent from any person you want to fly over (this can be given verbally).

CAA rules also have an overriding requirement to not operate in a manner that is hazardous to people or property.

## How must you fly?

Other rules and conditions apply, whether you're flying with or without a pilot licence and authorisation from Air Traffic Control/the aerodrome operator. We advise people to always read the rules in full, along with the relevant advisory circulars on the CAA website. The advisory circulars aim to help people interpret the rules and understand how to comply with them.

## CAA operating rules

- never fly higher than 120 metres / 400 feet above ground level
- only fly during daylight hours
- always fly within visual line of sight – you need to be able to see the aircraft with your own eyes at all times (i.e. not through binoculars, a monitor, or smartphone)
- at all times take all practicable steps to minimize hazards to persons, property and other aircraft (i.e. don't do anything hazardous). Give way to all other aircraft, and have abort systems in place in the event of a system failure (know how your aircraft will behave if a failure occurs)

If you are concerned that these rules are being breached, please contact the CAA on [isi@caa.govt.nz](mailto:isi@caa.govt.nz) or phone 0508 4SAFETY. If there is an imminent threat to people or property, please contact the Police.

## Tasman District Council conditions when flying unmanned aircraft over Council land

- Comply with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner guidance on preserving peoples' personal privacy by not flying over other people or adjoining private property without their consent.
- Be courteous of other park users, who often are there for the quiet enjoyment of the park.
- Do not operate over a sports field if in use by others.
- Do not operate within 20 metres of or be flown over other users of a park or livestock.
- Do not operate within 20 metres of sensitive wildlife habitats (such as coastal or river margins).
- Do not operate within 20 metres of nesting or roosting birds (such as godwits, banded rail, terns, NZ dotterel).
- Do not operate within 20 metres of, or be flown over, any building on Council land.
- Do not operate during a fire ban period.
- Cease operation if requested by Council staff.
- Any person proposing to use unmanned aircraft for commercial purposes must obtain specific permission from Council.

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

### Privacy Act

You also need to 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 without their consent. Note that the Privacy Commissioner's CCTV guidelines apply to how someone might use drones fitted with cameras and comply with the Privacy Act: [Privacy and CCTV](#)

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## What types of aircraft can you fly over Council land?

You are only permitted to fly unmanned aircraft weighing less than 25kgs on public land. However, anyone operating an unmanned aircraft that weighs between 15 - 25kgs must be a member of an organisation approved by the CAA (e.g. Model Flying New Zealand).

The rules and permissions set out on this page cover electric-powered, remote-controlled model aircraft commonly referred to as "drones" that are capable of vertical take-off and landing. They also cover small hand-launched gliders less than 1.5m wing span.

The rules and permissions set out on this page do not cover the following:

- Fixed-wing electric-powered model aircraft greater than 1m wing span;
- Gliders greater than 1.5m wingspan and bungee-launched gliders;
- All internal combustion engine (petrol)-powered aircraft; or
- All jet-powered models.

These types of unmanned aircraft can only be flown on private property or officially recognised sites under the control of approved operators, such as model aircraft clubs.

### What about flying my kite?

As long as your kite is moored (i.e. you have it on a string) and kept under 120m / 400ft, you can fly it where you like so long as it is used carefully and you take into consideration nearby people, stock and wildlife.

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## More tips and resources

Read up on CAA rules	<a href="#">Civil Aviation Authority website</a>
Map it out	<a href="#">Visual Navigation Charts</a>
Get authorisation	<a href="#">Airshare UAV hub</a>
Check before you fly	<a href="#">Controlled airspace and 4km zones</a>
Know your responsibilities	<a href="#">Duties of pilot-in-command</a>
Use the right frequencies	<a href="#">Frequencies legal for unmanned aircraft</a>



## Tasman Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Policy

### Summary information

Policy references	
Date policy drafted:	DD MONTH YYYY
Effective date:	DD MONTH YYYY
Note dates of any reviews or amendments since the Policy came into effect:	NA
Note who approved the amendments:	Name of Committee or staff and role
Review due:	DD MONTH YYYY Policies should be updated as required by legislation or organisational change, however a regular review period of (usually) three years is required
Legal compliance:	Policy aligns with New Zealand Civil Aviation (NZCA) rules made under the Civil Aviation Act (2023)
Associated documents/references:	New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules – 5 April 2025 <a href="#">Part 101 consolidation</a>

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## 1. Purpose and scope

The purpose of this policy is to set Council's conditions for the flying of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from and over Council owned land, under New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules (NZCAR) made under the Civil Aviation Act (2023).

The policy relates to the requirement under NZCAR for consent from the landowner from and over which a UAV is being flown. The scope of this policy relates to landowner consent where Council is the landowner or in charge of the land.

## 2. Introduction/Background

This policy sits under New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules (NZCAR) made under the Civil Aviation Act (2023)

The NZCAR provide for the use of UAVs such as free and moored balloons, remote control aircraft (drones), control line aircraft and free flight model aircraft, kites, and rockets, subject to controls on their specifications (e.g. size and weight) and use (e.g. daylight conditions, operator visibility). Restrictions of airspace use within and around airports and aerodromes also apply.

A key requirement of NZCAR is landowner permission from and over the land from which a UAV is operating. Specifically, the rules state that a person must not operate a remotely piloted aircraft over any property unless the person has the consent of the property owner or person in charge of the property.

Council policy applies to the use of UAVs from or over Council owned land or where Council oversees management of the property. The policy provides for landowner permission from Council subject to conditions. All relevant NZCAR standards and conditions also apply.

This policy does not relate to airspace permissions such as the authorisation of flight within 4km of an aerodrome (see Advice Note 4)

## 3. Definitions

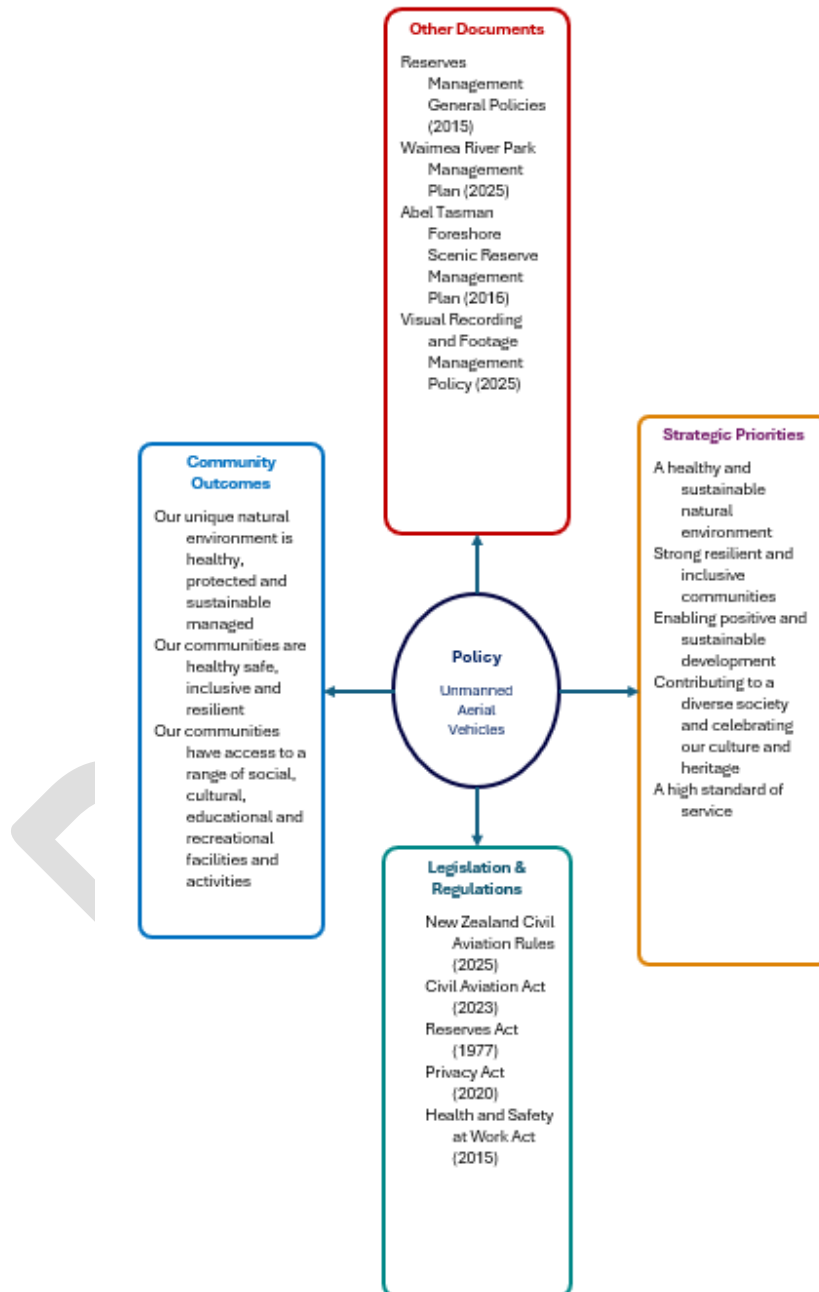
NZCAR – New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules (2025) made under the Civil Aviation Act (2023)

UAV operator (operation) - means an individual or organization responsible for controlling and managing the flight of an unmanned aerial vehicle.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) – means an aircraft that operates without a human pilot on board, and which may be free-flight, control line or remotely controlled, and includes moored balloons, free balloons, remotely piloted aircraft, control line model aircraft, free flight model aircraft, kites and rockets.

## 4. Alignment and integration

The policy sits under NZCAR and provides permissions for public use of UAVs from or over Council owned and managed land. The following table sets out the context for the policy in terms of Council’s legislative responsibilities.



## 5. Policies

The operation of any UAV from or over land that is owned or controlled by the Tasman District Council is permitted under the following conditions:

1. The operation of the UAV meets the requirements of New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules (2025).
2. The operation of the UAV is from or over Council owned or controlled land, **except** for UAV use from or over the following locations:
  - a. Mapua precinct and wharf area, and Waterfront Park;
  - b. Washbourne Gardens;
  - c. Pethybridge Rose Gardens;
  - d. Takaka Memorial Gardens;
  - e. Council Cemeteries;
  - f. Motueka Sandspit (Council owned portion. Refer to the Department of Conservation on rules for its portion of the spit);
  - g. Any Council land that is leased to another party (eg. bowling greens, tennis courts, grazing licences);
  - h. Any Council land during an organised gathering of people (including sporting events);
  - i. Any Council land where there is Council signage that specifies that use of UAVs is not permitted; and
  - j. Takaka Aerodrome and Motueka Aerodrome (see also Advice Note 4)
3. The operation of the UAV from or over Council land is not occurring during and in the vicinity of an emergency event, including any civil defence, ambulance, fire or police operation.
4. The operation of the UAV meets the following conditions:
  - a. The UAV operator is courteous of other users of Council land, who are often there for quiet enjoyment of the area;
  - b. The UAV operator asks permission to fly over other people;
  - c. The flight occurs at least 50m away from and above any nesting or roosting birds (such as godwits, banded rail, terns, NZ dotterel);
  - d. The UAV is used in a way that does not involve chasing or harassing any stock or wildlife;
  - e. The UAV operation is ceased immediately at request by Council staff; and
  - f. Where the UAV is powered by an open flame (e.g. hot air balloon, rocket or jet turbine), the operation occurs outside of fire ban periods.

## 6. Advice notes

The following notes provide important information relevant to the operation of UAVs, independent of this policy.

1. The use of UAVs is regulated by the New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules (NZCAR). NZCAR specify flight conditions such as the maximum permitted height of flight, visibility of the

UAV by the operator and craft specifications (e.g. maximum size and weight). These must be met.

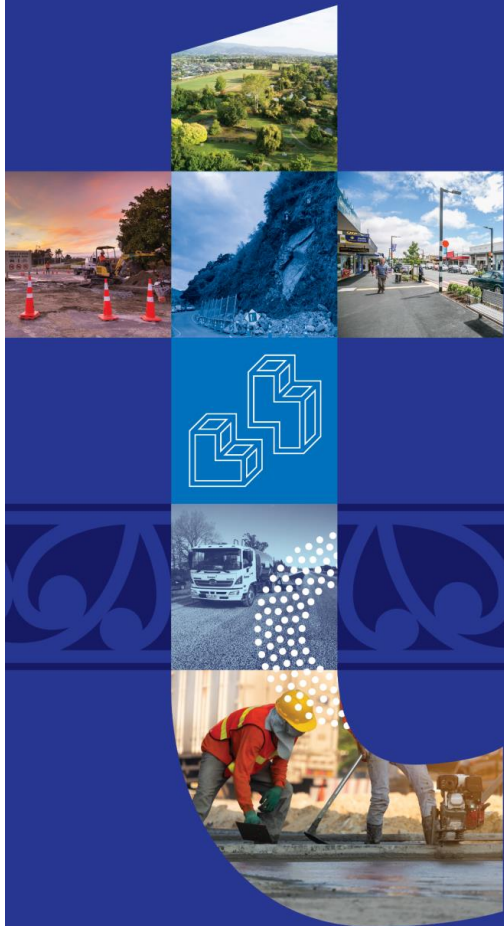
2. Detail about all applicable NZCAR related to permitted uses under this policy can be found on the New Zealand Civil Aviation Authority website.
3. An important regulation of NZCAR relates to restricted and controlled airspace in and around airports and aerodromes. Controlled airspace is airspace where air traffic control (ATC) services are provided to manage aircraft operations safely. Authorisation from the airspace controller is required.
4. Flight within 4km of an aerodrome is also regulated by specific NZCAR provisions. The operator of the UAV must hold a pilot qualification or a drone pilot certificate (or be supervised by someone who does) and obtain authorisation from the relevant aerodrome operator to fly there, except flight that meets the requirements of a shielded operation (see 6 below). Where the UAV operation is within 4km of the Takaka or Motueka aerodromes, authorisation from Council is required as aerodrome operator. UAV operators are encouraged to engage with the aerodrome operator or airspace controller.
5. Authorisation from the airspace controller or aerodrome operator is required regardless of landowner permissions.
6. A shielded operation is defined as a UAV flight that occurs within 100 metres of, and below the top of, a natural or man-made object (like a building, tree, or structure), and where the UAV is not flown higher than the object providing the "shield". The UAV operator must also ensure that flight occurs in airspace that is physically separated from the aerodrome by a barrier that can arrest the flight of the aircraft. The flight must not be within the boundary of the aerodrome.
7. Public land that is in the control of the Department of Conservation (DOC) including national parks, scenic reserves and some foreshore reserve (coastal) areas, is managed by DOC and covered by their policies. Information about the use of UAVs on or over DOC controlled land can be found on the Department of Conservation website
8. The use of UAVs is subject to the Privacy Act (2020). Privacy Act legislation will be especially relevant where a UAV supports a camera or video recording equipment. Information about the use of UAVs and privacy matters is available from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.
9. New Zealand Health and Safety regulations made under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) may apply to the use of UAVs for commercial and workplace related uses. Information about the duty of care, risk assessment and training and competency requirements of the HSWA is available from WorkSafe New Zealand.
10. The level of resources to implement this policy are determined through the Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan (AP) processes in which all the Council's roles and responsibilities are considered together. The extent and speed with which we can implement

this policy will be determined by the resources provided for that purpose through the LTP and/or AP.

## 7. Monitoring

The Council does not intend to actively monitor this policy.

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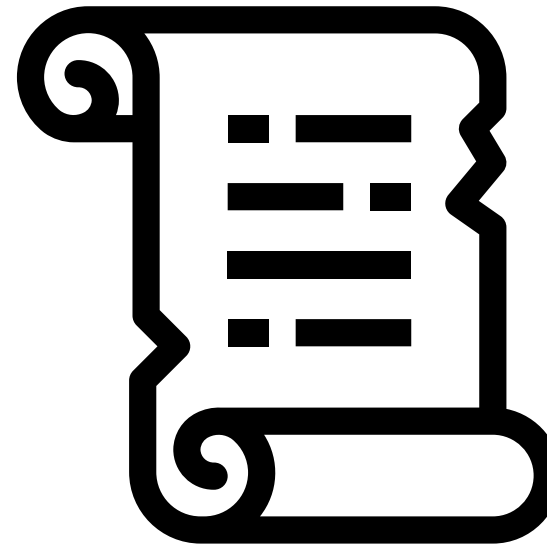


# Updating the Policy on Giving Consent to Fly Unmanned Aircraft Over Council Land

March 2026

# Background

Interim Policy on  
Giving Consent to Fly  
Unmanned Aircraft  
Over Council Land  
2015



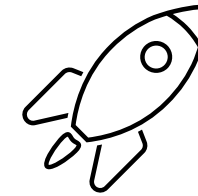
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Thriving resilient 

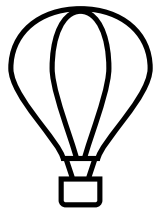
# Part 101 Rules for unmanned aircraft



Drones



Rockets

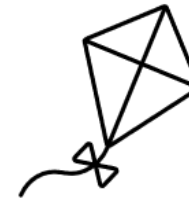


Balloons

## Types of unmanned aircraft



Model Aircraft



Kites

# Landowner Permission Required

Most Council Land –  
general permission

Red font – new exceptions  
Blue font – exceptions removed

## Exceptions

- Mapua precinct and wharf area, and Waterfront Park;
- Washbourne Gardens;
- Pethybridge Rose Gardens;
- Takaka Memorial Gardens;
- Council Cemeteries;
- Motueka Sandspit (Council owned portion);
- Any Council land that is leased to another party
- Any Council land during an organised gathering of people (including sporting events);
- Any Council land where there is Council signage that specifies that use of UAVs is not permitted;
- ~~Council offices and libraries;~~
- ~~Council land managed as plantation forest;~~

Takaka Aerodrome and Motueka Aerodrome – covered by NZCAR rules

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# Terms and Conditions

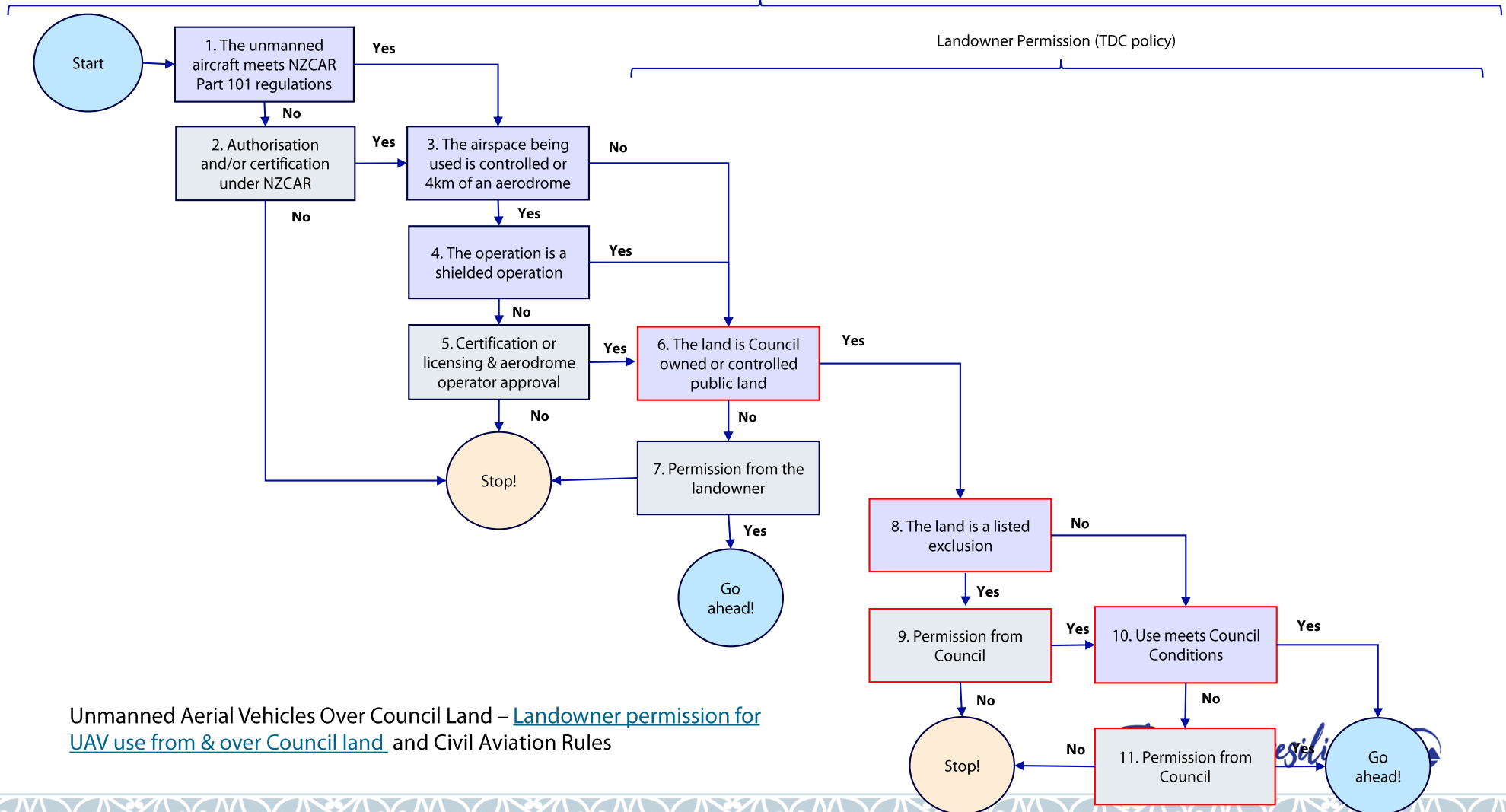
- **Not during and in vicinity of emergency event**
- Courteous of other users of Council land
- Ask permission to fly over other people
- At least 50m away from and above any nesting or roosting birds
- Not chasing or harassing any stock or wildlife
- Cease immediately at request by Council staff
- Where the UAV is powered by an open flame, outside of fire ban periods only
- ~~Do not operate within 20 metres of or be flown over other users of a park or livestock.~~
- ~~Do not operate within 20 metres of, or be flown over, any building on Council land.~~
- ~~Any person proposing to use unmanned aircraft for commercial purposes must obtain specific permission from Council.~~

5

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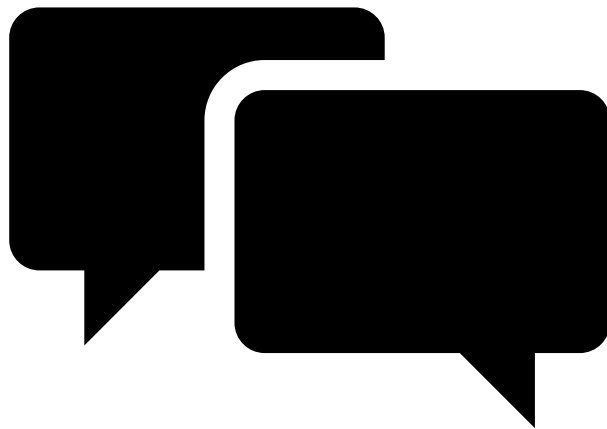
New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules (2025)

Landowner Permission (TDC policy)



Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Over Council Land – [Landowner permission for UAV use from & over Council land](#) and Civil Aviation Rules

# Consultation?

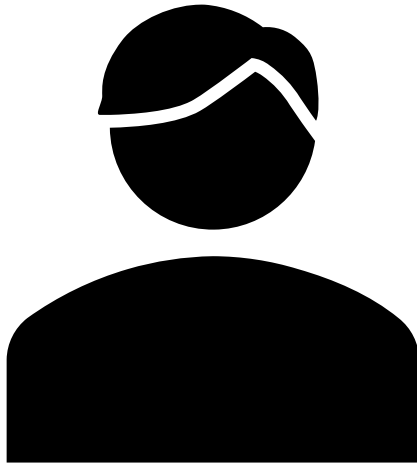


Modest changes, low  
significance

7

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# Conclusion



Staff recommend:

- Minor changes to policy
- Don't publicly consult
- Notify key stakeholders of changes