

Waitomo District Council

Use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (Drones) Policy

First Adopted:	October 2016
Review History:	May 2023
Date of Next Review:	May 2026
Responsibility:	General Manager – Strategy and Environment
Adopted by:	Council

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INTRODUCTION | KUPU ARATAKI

This policy relates to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) as defined in Part 101 – Rules of the Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand and which weigh less than 25kg.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE | TE ARONGA ME TE KORAHĪ

1. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (“RPAS”) on or over Waitomo District Council (Council) property and facilities and to manage safety risks.
2. This policy applies to both recreational and commercial operators. RPAS over 25kg have to be certified by the Civil Aviation Authority (“CAA”)

DEFINITIONS | NGĀ WHAKAMĀRAMATANGA

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)	An unmanned aircraft that is piloted from a remote station and includes a radio controlled model aircraft, but does not include a control line model aircraft or a free flight model aircraft.
Unmanned Aircraft	An aircraft designed to operate with no pilot on board and includes unmanned balloons, kites, control-line model aircraft, free flight model aircraft and remotely piloted aircraft.
Emergency Situation	An emergency situation is defined as a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action to avoid injury, loss of life or damage to property.

POLICY | KAUPAPA HERE

1. Aerodromes

- 1.1. Operators of RPAS must not fly them within a four-kilometre radius of an aerodrome boundary (even if that radius includes uncontrolled airspace). See Schedule 1 for map.
- 1.2. Part 61 Pilot Licences are exempted from this, as are operators who have received a “Wings” badge from MFNZ, or are accompanied by someone who has. Operators under these categories still need prior authorisation from the aerodrome operator to fly within the four kilometre zone however they must not fly their model over any active runway strip, or any area where aircraft taxi. Control line aircraft must also remain clear of such areas.

2. Roads

- 2.1. This policy does not apply to Council roads or road reserve. If an operator wants to fly a RPAS over a Council road or road reserve, a Corridor Access request (CAR) must be applied for and approved.

3. Prohibited Areas

- 3.1. Council does not allow the use of RPAS on or above the following Council properties:
- (a) WDC Queen Street Office
 - (b) Waitomo District Library
 - (c) Te Kuiti i-Site Visitor Information Centre
 - (d) Te Kuiti Railway Building Complex and Plaza area
 - (e) Waitomo District Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants
 - (f) Waitomo District Landfill and Rural Transfer Stations
 - (g) Waitomo District Council Cemeteries
 - (h) Les Munro Centre and adjoining Centopath Memorial Garden
 - (i) Piopio Memorial Hall
 - (j) Redwood Park Housing Complex
 - (k) Senior Citizens Hall, Te Kuiti
 - (l) Te Kuiti Campground
- 3.2. This does not apply to the use of RPAS by Council or its staff, contractors or authorised persons for the purpose of promotional filming and property or emergency management in those areas.

4. Permitted Areas

- 4.1. Council allows the use of RPAS on or above parks and reserves, subject to the following conditions:
- (a) The operator must comply with Part 101 Rule or such other CAA rules and regulations which apply to RPAS, in particular the requirement to obtain permission of people before flying the RPA over them.
 - (b) Booked events on Council reserves and property take priority. The permission of the occupier, site manager and/or event organizer will be required.
 - (c) The operator must immediately cease use of the RPAS if requested by a member of Council staff or its contractor.
 - (d) The RPAS operator is responsible for any damage or claims caused by the use of the drone in relation to Council or other property.
 - (e) The use of a RPAS for the application of any product or chemical is prohibited.
 - (f) The operator is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner guidance on preserving people's personal privacy and the Privacy Act 1993.
- 4.2. Any breach of the above conditions could result in termination of the operator's permission to use public land for the purpose of operating a RPAS and/or a report of any non-compliance with Part 101 Rule to the CAA.

5. Police and Emergency Situations

- 5.1. There is no requirement for the New Zealand Police, Civil Defence, or Emergency Management officials to apply to the Council for permission to fly above Council property during an emergency situation.
- 5.2. Other than RPAS used by the Civil Defence and Emergency Management officials, no approval is given to fly a RPAS over any Council property within 1 kilometre of an emergency situation which is being actively attended by emergency officials.

SCHEDULE 1 | WAHANGA 1

Map indicating 4km no-fly radius around the Te Kuiti Aerodrome

