



PLN-006-1.0

Drone Management Plan

1. Purpose, Scope and Use

This document provides an overview of how Blazing Swan manages drones at the Blazing Swan event. It provides guidance to both the event organisers on how to comply with applicable legislation and for participants who wish to operate a drone at Blazing Swan.

2. Reference Documents

- CASA website (accessed 07 March 2021)
 - <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones>
 - <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/excluded-category>
 - <https://www.casa.gov.au/drones/remote-pilot-licence>
- Australian Government Legislation (accessed 07 March 2021)
 - <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017C00742>
- Blazing Swan Media & Photography Policy

3. Introduction

In Australia, including Western Australia, use of drones are legislated through the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). Blazing Swan recognises that the use of drones represents both a safety and privacy/consent issue for the event and as such, this document looks to set out how the use of drones will be controlled and managed at Jilakin Rock City during the event.

While CASA provides legislation and licensing for the use of drones, Blazing Swan recognises that these are relatively inexpensive items which are often considered ‘toys’, and thus a regular (casual hobbyist / enthusiast) users are often unaware of the potential impact of their use, nor the regulations that apply to them. Additionally, when ‘flying for fun’, no legal requirements are made with regards for registration or licensing; it is a very easy market to enter without being aware of legislation and how to comply.

As of 2018 the following categories have been determined for drone usage:

- Pilots flying for fun – these are non-commercial flights
- Flights involving drones under 250 grams
- Commercial flights where the drone weight is under 2kg
- Commercial flights where the drone weight is over 2kg, but no more than 25kg and
- Flying outside of the regulations

While it is recognised, in line with the ‘decommodification’ principle of Blazing Swan that all flights would be considered as ‘flying for fun’, some regulations and principles of commercial flights must be laid out for safety reasons at the Blazing Swan event.

4. Purpose

Blazing Swan expects its participants to abide by State laws, in the case of participants who wish to operate drones, this is set by CASA. Blazing Swan is committed to preventing drone causing or contributing to injury or harm to persons and native wildlife.

This document defines the formal requirements and procedural controls intended to ensure that the possession and use of drones at Blazing Swan events is managed in accordance with Australian and West Australian legal requirements as well as Blazing Swan's own safety requirements all of which are aimed at negating a cause or contributing to injury or damage to persons or wildlife, within and outside of the event site boundaries.

5. Definitions

Drones, UAV or unmanned aerial vehicle can be defined as an aircraft piloted by remote control or onboard computer.

CASA regulates the use of drones within Australia, including Western Australia under the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Regulations 1998, predominantly within Part 101.

As identified in the introduction, CASA defines 4 categories of use;-

- Pilots flying for fun – this is non-commercial flights
- Commercial flights where the drone weight is under 2kg
- Commercial flights where the drone weight is over 2kg and
- Flying outside of the regulations

This document is written so as to define all requirements for drone use at Blazing Swan.

6. Legal Requirements

Blazing Swan drone operators/pilots will follow the legislation as defined by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority Regulations 1998, predominantly within Part 101.

These are as follows:

- Must not fly your drone higher than 120 metres (400 ft) above the ground.
- Must not fly your drone 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.
- Must not fly your drone within 30 metres of people, unless the other person is part of controlling or navigating the drone.
- Must fly only one drone at a time.
- If the drone weighs more than 100 grams:
 - Must keep your drone at least 5.5km away from controlled aerodromes (usually those with a control tower)
 - 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. If you become aware of manned aircraft operating to or from the aerodrome/ HLS, you must manoeuvre away from the aircraft and land as soon as safely possible. 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)
- Must only fly during the day and keep your drone within visual line-of sight.
 - This means being able to orientate, navigate and see the aircraft with your own eyes at all times (rather than through a device; for example, through goggles or on a video screen).
- You must not fly over or above people. This could include festivals, sporting ovals, populated beaches, parks, busy roads and footpaths.
- You must not operate your drone in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, person, or

- property
- You must not operate your drone in prohibited or restricted areas.

7. Blazing Swan Event Requirements

In addition to the above-mentioned legal requirements, Blazing Swan requires and will promote, enforce and reward compliance with the following internal requirements:

7.1. Registration and Identification

Drone pilots are required to:

- Required (mandatory) to have an ARN (Aviation Reference Number)
- Required (mandatory) to register their request to fly at Blazing Swan, currently this is completed through the Photographers Registration process
 - Noting that requesting permission to fly nor having an ARN instantly grants permission to fly at Blazing Swan, drone operators will need to be approved by the Drone Lead from Blazing Swan.
- Should they be approved – Drone operators are to have their photographers' identification visible whilst flying and
- High-visibility vest, or similar, is mandatory and to be worn whilst flying

7.2. Communication

Prior to, during and after flying, drone pilots must;

- Communicate with Ranger HQ their intention to fly along with the approximate area of their flight
 - If carrying a UHF radio (note this is self-provided), this can be done remotely otherwise,
 - Drone pilots are to physically visit Ranger HQ alert Rangers of their intention to fly
 - Radio channel(s) to be used by drone pilots will be defined by Rangers
- Establish communication with any other pilots currently operating and therefore be able to keep a safety distance from other operators in the area
- Maintain radio communication / open channel in case of emergencies
 - Blazing Swan recognises the risk that drones have during an emergency. Specifically recognised is that **risk** for a helicopter medivac. Should this occur, drones will be ordered to the ground immediately by Ranger HQ so that the helicopter can use the landing pad as required
- Maintain radio communication / open channels when/if changing location
 - Noting that pilots need to recognise the potential risk of flying between locations – and crossing areas of highly populated people
- Suggested, but not mandatory – wear high-vis vest to allow easy identification of a drone operator
- Sign off / close out flights
 - Notify Ranger HQ and other pilots that the drone flight has been completed.

Rangers at Ranger HQ are to keep a written log of pilots/drones operating. A written record allows follow up should any incidents occur or the need to identify a drone pilot arises.

7.3. Helicopter

Jilakin Rock City has a helicopter landing site (HLS). If you become aware of manned aircraft operating to or from the HLS, you must manoeuvre away from the aircraft and land as soon as safely possible.

7.4. The Burns

Blazing Swan recognises that the risk of night flights especially when combined with fireworks and fire/smoke, and potential for emergency services to be involved. As such there will be a prohibition of all uncontrolled flights during The Burns.

At the digression of the Event Manager, Black Swan and Drone Lead permission to fly/shoot may be issued; however, this would be at a suitable and safe distance from the burns, the crowd and any other hazards identified and would be at a location agreed by all parties.

7.5. Main Camp and Crowds

Due to the crowded nature of the Blazing Swan event, it is likely that drone pilots wish to capture specific events, and thus crowds are likely to be in attendance.

Drone pilots are not to fly directly over crowds, this includes general camping.

7.6. Flying Area

Drone pilots are requested to remain within the area dedicated to Blazing Swan. Areas outside of this are not consider no-go areas, but drone pilots are to use their judgement with regard to land ownership and potential impact to other people and fauna.

7.7. Consent

Consent is one of Blazing Swan's 11 principles.

Drone pilots are requested to respect personal privacy. It is understandably difficult to gain permission from those persons recorded from longer distances - considered when a person is not identifiable. But when operating where people can be identified – drone pilots are recommended to ask for consent or communicating that a drone is in operation.

In line with Blazing Swan's consent principle - don't record or photograph people without their consent. Doing so may breach state laws.

In line with Blazing Swan's photography policy, you may publish images captured at Blazing Swan as part of your portfolio, however they may not be sold commercially.

7.8. Incidents

Any incidents are required to be reported to Rangers at Ranger HQ.

Incidents include (but not limited to);- any drone crash, striking person, object or wildlife and unplanned events which could have sustained injury or damage. If in doubt report.

Reporting these incidents allow Blazing Swan to learn as an event, and where possible, prevent further incidents in the future.

Pilots are also recommended to remain vigilant for small aircraft, kites and gliders whilst flying as these are often at low altitudes which may conflict with drone usage.

If in doubt with any scenario, pilots are to land in a safe place in a timely manner.

7.9. Escalation

The association recognises that Rangers form a large part of the drone process, and that no training is provided. Thus if escalation is required – be it for questions, concerns or incident – the Drone Lead should be contacted.

8. Implementation and Monitoring

This policy will be enabled via communication direct to the community through the Blazing Swan communication channels.

All participants will be encouraged to register as a drone operator/pilot, and may be asked not to fly without registration.

Those who are registered will be communicated to with this document.

Whilst on site, all participants have the right to question the registration of a drone pilot. However it is suggested that Blazing Swan Rangers investigate and take appropriate action should issues occur.

Post event, a review of the drone operations, any incidents, concerns and effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed and updated as/if required. It is expected that input will be received from the Blazing Swan Rangers and Drone Operators, as well as any members of the Blazing Swan community.

Document Control

Document number:	PLN_00x
Version:	1.0
Created by:	Bruce Garrod
Date of version:	7 th March 2021
Approved by:	Pasan Tennakoon
Next review date:	April 2022

Record of Review/Changes

Date:	Version	Details of change	Author
21 Mar 18	A	Issued for Draft	Bruce Garrod
23 Mar 18	B	Issued for Draft	Bruce Garrod
25 Mar 19	C	Issued for Draft	Bruce Garrod
20 Mar 21	D	Issued for Review	Bruce Garrod
30 Mar 21	1.0	Issued for Use	Bruce Garrod

Definitions

Term	Definition
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
ARN	Aviation Reference Number