



Australian Government
Civil Aviation Safety Authority

RPAS
REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS



DRONE FAST FACTS

Drones in Australia

- Australia now has 244 more drone operator certificate holders (1,106 RPA operator's certificates or ReOCs) than manned aviation certificate holders (862 air operator's certificates)
- These 1,106 drone operator certificate holders employ more than 5,870 remote pilots around Australia
- Since the new drone rules were introduced in September 2016, more than 6,000 people have registered their details and notified CASA of their intent to fly commercially, agreeing to follow strict safety rules
- Recreational drone fliers also need to follow simple rules to keep everyone safe
- This includes being able to see their drone at all times, not flying closer than 30 m to people, not flying over populous areas and not flying higher than 120 metres in controlled airspace
- CASA launched the 'Can I fly there?' drone safety app in May 2017 to show operators where they can and can't fly, as well as detailing the safety rules
- So far in 2017, CASA has issued 20 aviation infringement notices to people breaking the drone safety rules and has further educated another 400 people about their need to comply with the rules.



72,000

'Can I fly there?' app
downloads/unique users



51,000

social media followers



5,870

remote pilots around
Australia



587,638

people reached after
drone app launch



1.2 million

views on drone safety
videos



436,208

people reached via
cinema advertising

For further information visit:

casa.gov.au/drones





Drone regulations

- Australia was one of the first countries in the world to regulate drones, with recreational rules first implemented in 2002 under the Civil Aviation Safety Regulations Part 101—unmanned aircraft and rockets
- CASA introduced significant amendments to the rules in September 2016 to cover all recreational, sub-2 kg commercial and commercial drone operations
- There are rules that apply whether you are flying a drone for fun or commercially
- All drone operators must make sure they follow the rules and don't cause a hazard to people, aircraft or property, with penalties for breaking the rules of up to \$10,500 or 50 penalty units
- The rules specifically state that drone operators must not fly near emergency services activities, such as bushfires.

Drone safety awareness

CASA has had an ongoing drone safety awareness campaign since 2013 including:

'Can I fly there?' drone safety app

- CASA produced the 'Can I fly there?' drone safety app to help drone flyers new to aviation know where they can and can't fly
- Released in May 2017, it has so far had over 72,000 downloads/unique users
- Available in iOS and Android smartphone versions, as well as a desktop web browser version.

Social media

- CASA has a strong following of more than 51,000 followers across its social media accounts
- CASA posted about drone safety on Facebook 50 times last financial year, with each post on average reaching more than 57,000 people—a combined reach of 2.8 million individuals
- A single post promoting the 'Can I fly there?' drone safety app launch reached 587,638 people.

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Videos

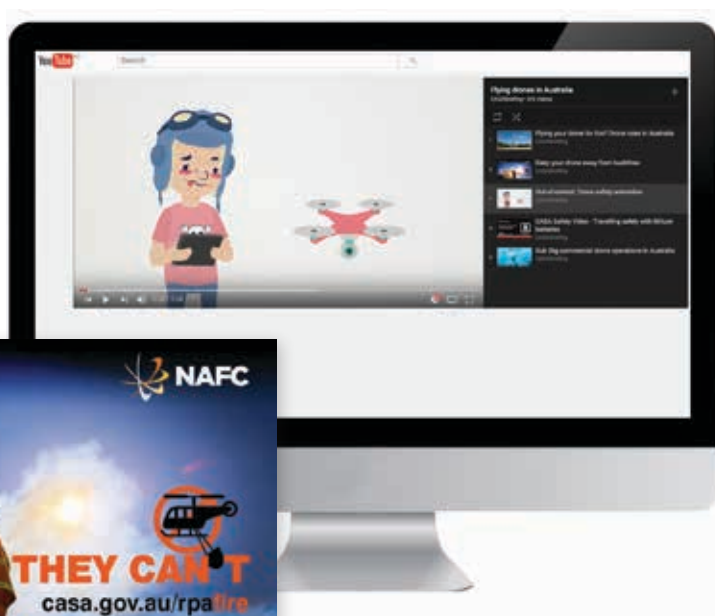
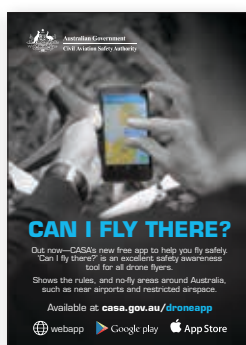
- CASA has produced a total of seven videos on drone safety since 2013
- These videos have achieved an accumulated total of just under 1.2 million views across CASA's Facebook and YouTube social media channels
- The videos cover a variety of topics including:
 - the rules for recreational and commercial drone flyers
 - battery safety
 - flying drones near bushfires and emergency services
 - an animation to engage young drone flyers (viewed more than 132,000 times on Facebook and YouTube).

Events

- CASA regularly provides technical experts and safety promotion staff at a wide range of events to raise drone safety awareness, distribute information, as well as to present on drone safety and answer questions from both professional and recreational drone operators.
- These events include technology focused expos, agricultural field days and schools events such as the Innovation Games during Science Week to capture the broadest possible audiences of potential drone flyers.

Advertising

- CASA continually promotes the drone safety rules through a wide array of different mediums across hardcopy and digital formats
- As part of launching the 'Can I fly there?' drone safety app in June–July 2017, CASA engaged in cinema advertising for the first time, reaching an audience of 436,208 people.





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