

Remotely piloted aircraft systems

Context

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems have become a recognised cost effective policing tool throughout the world. Victoria Police and its members must comply with the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (Cth) 1998* and this policy in relation to Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.

The Police Air Wing is responsible for the delivery of aerial support services to Victoria Police and will govern the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems by Victoria Police.

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Definitions

Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) – An aircraft (or aircraft system) that is flown from a remote location without a pilot located in the aircraft itself. RPAS are also referred to as “drones” or “UAS” (unmanned aerial system). For the purpose of this policy RPAS covers all such terms.

Scope and application

This policy applies to:

- All Victoria Police officers
- Victoria Police employees engaged in the purchase and procurement of goods and services.

Responsibilities and procedures

1. RPAS purchase and use

- Work units are prohibited from operating, using, purchasing, leasing, lending or otherwise acquiring for use RPAS and associated equipment unless written approval is provided by the Unit Commander, Police Air Wing.
- Work units that currently own or use a RPAS are to notify and gain written approval from the Police Air Wing to use the RPAS.

2. Members' responsibilities

- The use of personally owned RPAS for policing activities is prohibited.
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- Members are not to contact friends, acquaintances or external contractors (other than in accordance with this policy) to use privately owned RPAS to film scenes or conduct police activities.
- All data, information and records (including video, audio and flight requests) must be treated in accordance with **VPMP Information review, retention and disposal**.

3. Police Air Wing assistance

All requests for aerial support services are to be directed to the Police Air Wing.

4. Engaging external contractors

4.1 Requests for external contractor

- Only in exceptional circumstances may a work unit use an external contractor to supply an RPAS.
- Approval to use an external contractor must be obtained from the Manager, Police Air Wing.
- Regions are responsible for costs involved.

4.2 Information management

Where work units are using a contractor to provide assistance, all data information and records (including video, audio and flight requests) must be treated in accordance with **VPMP Information review, retention and disposal**.

Related documents

- Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998
- Victoria Police practitioner guide – Response to incidents involving Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Further advice and information

For further advice and assistance regarding these Policy Rules, contact the Police Air Wing.

Update history

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