



GARRAWARRA AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT MANUAL

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this manual is to provide a means of airspace safety and regulatory compliance management for SSSFA's Garrawarra flying field.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2016 CASA amended the Civil Aviation Regulations to cater for the rapid development and public uptake of drone aircraft. The most significant impact of the new rules contained in CASR 101, was the imposition of a blanket 400' above ground level (AGL) maximum operating height for model aeroplanes, drones and helicopters, across all of Australian territories.

The MAAA worked with CASA to develop a system of management to facilitate restricted safe access to the airspace above 400'AGL for its members, and this resulted in the issue of area approvals with strict conditions.

In April 2019 following a risk assessment and application by the club, CASA granted SSSFA with an approval of an area for the operation of model aircraft up to 1000 feet Above Ground Level (AGL) at the Garrawarra club field. A copy of this document may be seen at Attachment 1 of this manual.

3. REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET FOR USE OF THE AREA APPROVAL

Flight above 400' at Garrawarra may only be conducted when meeting all of the requirements of **Schedule 1 General Conditions** of the Area Approval.

For the purpose meeting of Condition 7: "*the appointment of a dedicated person to act in the role of safety officer*", any such appointment may only be made at the sole discretion of the person named in **Condition 1 of Schedule 1 General Conditions**, as "*The person nominated as the responsible person for the club*".

All persons appointed as a dedicated person to act in the role as safety officer, must have undergone training as specified in this manual, or hold appropriate experience and/or qualifications, to the satisfaction of the person nominated as the responsible person for the club.

The prerequisite training syllabus and the basic competency criteria for the role are detailed in Attachment 2 of this manual.

The appointment of persons for the purpose of the approval may be given verbally to meet temporary short-term requirements for specific events and periods of time.

All other appointments shall be made in writing and a register of appointed persons with competency certification will be maintained by the secretary of the club.

4. SAFETY OFFICER/OBSERVER ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT ASSESSMENT

- a. Must be a current financial member of SSSFA or an MAAA affiliate club and be the holder of at least MAAA Bronze Wings, equivalent qualification, or skillset.
- b. To ensure a minimum eyesight standard, must hold a current motor vehicle driver's licence.
- c. Must have an average community standard of speaking and understanding the English language, with sufficient hearing ability to comprehend conversation at normal speaking volume; and
- d. A review of all the above for each appointed Safety Officer/ Observer, shall be conducted on an annual basis by the current CASA nominated responsible person for the club.

5. CASR 101.085 EXPLAINED

This regulation is what limits model flying to 400' AGL and allows CASA to enable it to occur above that height with minimal risk under the controlled conditions of a safety management system. A responsible person is named in each area approval to ensure compliance with the conditions of the approval, however the responsibility for the safety of those travelling through the skies above our field also belongs to every person enjoying the privilege given by the area approval. The consequences and penalties for not doing so can be quite severe.

Civil Aviation Safety Regulation (CASR) 101.085 Maximum operating height

- (1) A person may operate an unmanned aircraft above 400 feet AGL only:
 - a) in an area approved under regulation 101.030 as an area for the operation of unmanned aircraft of the same class as the aircraft concerned, and in accordance with any conditions of the approval; or
 - b) as otherwise permitted by this Part.

Penalty: 50 penalty units.

- (2) An offence against sub regulation (1) is an offence of strict liability.

Note: For **strict liability**, see section 6.1 of the *Criminal Code*.

Penalty unit value for breaches of Australian Government laws is currently \$222.00
 $\$222 \times 50 \text{ penalty units} = \$11,100.00.$

Section 6.1 of the Criminal Code is something which may lead to much greater punishment than 50 penalty points.

And the Commonwealth Civil Aviation Act goes just a little bit further: *The reckless operation of an unmanned aircraft which endangers the life of another person, or endangers another person or another person's property, is recognised as a serious offence under the Act. Upon conviction, a person may be sentenced to a period of up to*

5 years in prison for endangering another person's life, and up to two years for otherwise endangering another person or another person's property.

6. GENERAL RULES FOR FLYING ABOVE 400FT AND BELOW 1,000FT AGL:

If there is any chance that the performance and flight characteristics of the model you are flying or the type of flying you are conducting, is likely to result in the model going above 400' AGL, there must be an appointed observer/safety officer in attendance and specifically assigned to the role.

The appointed observer/safety officer must be solely focused on the task and not engaged in any other activity. Should the appointed person's attention become diverted to another task, the assignment of the observer/safety officer role must be passed to another authorised person.

In Summary:

- An appointed dedicated safety officer must be on the field and if two people are at the field, only one can fly at a time above 400 feet AGL. If six are on the field, only five can fly above 400 feet AGL;
- Outside an organised event with a Safety Officer, a maximum of six models to be above 400ft at any one time;
- If manned aircraft are in the area, seek guidance from the Safety Officer/spotter to facilitate a potential avoidance plan. Manned aircraft always have right of way;
- No flying over 1000ft AGL;
- No flying outside a 500 metre horizontal radius from the operator.

7. Document Review:

A review of all documentation, procedures and process associated with this manual and the CASA Area Height Approval for Garrawarra shall be conducted on a six monthly basis:

- The review must be conducted to the satisfaction of the person named as the “**responsible person**” under Schedule 1 General Conditions, of the Area Height Approval: *Casa Instrument Number: CASA.AreaApp.0145*.
- The reviewer should seek appropriate expert input where appropriate; and
- Any changes to club policy or documented procedure associated with this manual, must be subject to approval by the SSSFA committee.

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Attachments:

Attachment 1: Copy of current CASA approval of an area of Model aircraft up to 1000' AGL.

Attachment 2: Syllabus of training and instructional reference material.

Attachment 3: Reserved.

Attachment 4: Proforma - Letter of appointment of Safety Officers/Observers.

Attachment 5: Proforma - Record of SSSFA Garrawarra Airspace Incursions.

Attachment 6: Proforma – Record of Approved Safety Officers/Observers.

