



NOTAP #2024-04

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IMPORTANT REMINDER OF OUR REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS & CLUB GENERAL MEETING.

Hello everyone. Following some recent discussion with CASA, I've put together some important notes that we all need to be aware of. Happy to discuss at the general meeting. If you have not registered for the ZOOM meeting, please do so with Daniel before 5PM on Wednesday afternoon. Registrations will not be processed after this time.

The CASA 30 Metre Rule

The CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) "30 metre rule" and the "populous area rule" are regulations aimed at ensuring safety in aeromodelling and drone operations in Australia. Here's a breakdown of both:

This rule states that aeromodelling aircraft, including drones, must not be flown within **30 metres of people who are not involved in operating the aircraft**. The purpose of this rule is to minimize the risk of injury or property damage caused by the operation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). Exceptions might apply for specific aircraft types or during controlled activities such as public demonstrations with CASA's approval.

Implications for Aeromodelling & Our Club

- Operators must ensure they maintain a safe distance when flying their models, particularly where bystanders may be present.
- This may limit flying activities in congested locations where maintaining this distance is impractical.

Populous Area Rule

Under CASA regulations, aeromodelling aircraft should not be flown **over populous areas**, which are defined as areas where, in the event of an accident, the aircraft might pose a risk to persons or property. This includes:

- Urban areas.
- Parks and events with significant gatherings of people.
- Restricted areas (no-fly zones) at model aero clubs, particularly as defined within a CASA Instrument (Area Approval).

Flying over populous areas is permitted only if the operator has obtained explicit permissions or if specific exemptions are granted under controlled circumstances.

Implications for Aeromodelling

- Aeromodellers must select locations that are not over or near gatherings or crowded public spaces.
- Clubs or events may need to plan flying demonstrations with safety barriers, risk assessments, or CASA permissions to comply.

Practical Applications

- **Planning Flights:** Ensure that the area complies with both the 30 metre and populous area rules before starting.
- **Safety Briefings:** Aeromodelling clubs should regularly update members on these rules and any local variations.
- **Events and Demonstrations:** These typically require formal safety plans and may necessitate CASA approval to ensure compliance.

By adhering to these rules, aeromodellers contribute to a safer flying environment while also aligning with national aviation safety standards.

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P&DARCS President 2024/2025