



NOTAP #2025-08

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Dear Members,

Area Approval Update

As most members would be aware, our club has a CASA Instrument allowing us to operate our model aircraft up to 1500FT AGL. In preceding years, this instrument was valid for 5 years and was achieved after a lengthy application process to CASA via the MAAA.

In cooperation with CASA, the MAAA have now negotiated a "blanket area approval" process which has significantly reduced the workload in obtaining area approval renewals. With the new process, P&DARCS could apply under the designated "Pathway 2" meaning that if our operating conditions had not changed under our existing approval, we could transition to the MAAA Blanket Approval. This process is now complete, and the new approval for our club is in place up until May 14th 2026.

The MAAA will issue an annual declaration to the club, requesting confirmation that no changes have occurred under our club rules that would conflict with the approval. If no changes have occurred, the approval will continue.

What this means for members is that we will continue to enjoy the benefits of flying up to 1500FT AGL within our authorised area. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure they remain within the approved heights, and you may be asked to verify this (for example, via telemetry equipment). If you are flying above 1000FT AGL and up to 1500FT AGL, a spotter is mandatory.

To accommodate the new approval, when you receive your annual membership renewal this year, you will be acknowledging that you have read and understood our Operational Procedures, and the MOP's that form the basis for our Area Approval. This includes MOP001, MOP004 and MOP019. In addition, you will be acknowledging your awareness of the boundaries of the area authorisation map.

The clubhouse now contains up to date copies of the following map and MAAA Manual of Procedures (MOP's).

- Field Authorised Area Map to 1500FT AGL,
- MOP001 Incident Reporting,
- MOP004 Model Aircraft Operations Above 400 Feet AGL,
- MOP014 General Rules for Model Aircraft,
- MOP015 Heavy Model Aircraft,
- MOP019 Model Flying Displays,
- MOP030 Gas Turbine Rules.

Please make yourself familiar with these documents. They will be updated as required and if you notice any missing documents, let me know so that they can be replaced.

If a full member of P&DARCS brings a visitor to the club (to fly), it is the responsibility of the P&DARCS members to sign them in and to ensure that the visitor is aware of the requirements of our area approval, and our club rules.

The MAAA have worked hard to ensure the pathway to area approvals for all clubs is now a much easier, less convoluted path to navigate. A large part of that commitment rests with the clubs to ensure they are complying with the requirements of the MAAA Approval which in turn means this procedure and the working relationship with CASA will continue.

See you at the field.

Keith Quigg | AUS 22897
P&DARCS President 2024/2025