

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Policy

Type:	Internal & External	Function	
Policy Owner:	GM Research & Technology	Activity	
Implementation Date:	27 November 2025	Sub Activity	
Date of Next Review:	1 July 2027		

Vision

1. Our vision is to be the best and safest production forest in the world – mō ake tonu atu.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that UAV operations on or over the KT estate is carried out safely and in accordance with CAA Rules.

Scope

3. This policy applies to all Kaingaroa Tipu (KT) contractors, subcontractors and any other person seeking to use a UAV on or over the KT estate.
4. This is a controlled document. The electronic version of this document is the most up to date and in the case of conflict the electronic version prevails over any printed version.

Background

5. UAVs have become far more common in recent years with usage falling broadly into three areas:
 - (a) Commercial;
 - (b) Scientific/research;
 - (c) Recreational.
6. CAA Rules require all operators of UAVs to obtain consent before operating over land owned by third parties
7. The requirement to obtain consent from KT is in addition to CAA Rules on where and how a person can operate a UAV.

UAV Usage

8. Only commercial and/or scientific/research use of UAVs on or over the KT estate may be allowed.

9. Recreational use of UAVs is not permitted on or over the KT estate.

Legislative Context

10. Adherence to this policy will ensure compliance with all relevant statutory regulations, specifically the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and CAA Rules.

Permits

11. Before operating a UAV on or over the KT estate a contractor, subcontractor or any other person must:
- (a) Hold or obtain a KT Business Forest Access Permit (if wanting to access the KT estate by vehicle to use a UAV);
 - (b) Comply with KT's General Forest Access Rules & Safety Behaviours for Business Permit Holders which can be found at www.kt.co.nz;
 - (c) Hold or obtain a KT UAV operations permit.
12. Information as to how to obtain a KT Business Forest Access Permit can be found at www.kt.co.nz.

UAV Operations Permit

13. UAV operations permits will not be issued:
- (a) To persons trespassed from, or warned to stay off, the KT estate.
 - (b) For the Whakarewarewa Forest area of the KT estate unless the applicant holds a CAA Rules part 102 certification or KT is otherwise satisfied that the UAV use will be a shielded operation.

Supporting Information

14. The following information must be supplied to KT (together with the duly completed UAV Operations Permit Application form) when seeking a UAV operations permit:
- (a) KT Business Forest Access Permit (if applicable);
 - (b) Reason for wanting access to the KT Estate;
 - (c) Work plan (where applicable);
 - (d) Forest/ compartment/ stand that will be accessed;
 - (e) Date and time access is sought;
 - (f) Part 61 Pilot License or CAA approved RPAS/UAV Pilot Certification (where required);

- (g) CAA Rules part 102 certification (where required);
- (h) Make and model of UAV;
- (i) UAV serial number;
- (j) Emergency procedure (for runaway UAV, battery fire);
- (k) Certificate of insurance (public liability **with UAV endorsement or UAV policy** with minimum cover \$5,000,000.00) from a licensed insurer (broker's certificates are not acceptable).

Risk Assessment

- 15. All UAV operations will be treated as hazardous work and subject to risk assessment by KT.
- 16. In assessing risks, restrictions and appropriate controls in relation to UAV activities, consideration will be given to the competency and experience of the UAV pilot.

Issuance of UAV Operations Permit

- 17. Before issuing a UAV operations permit KT must be satisfied that the applicant:
 - (a) Understands the extent of their obligations under the CAA Rules;
 - (b) Will not recklessly or negligently cause or permit a UAV to endanger any person or property;
 - (c) Will not cause or permit any article to be dropped from a UAV;
 - (d) Will only operate the UAV if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made;
 - (e) Will maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the UAV to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding damage or injury; and
 - (f) Holds insurance with a licensed insurer.

UAV Permit Conditions

- 18. Without fettering KT's discretion, the following conditions will form part of any UAV operations permit issued (even if not expressly stated):
 - (a) The date(s), time(s), and location (forest compartment/stand) that the UAV may be used;
 - (b) That if requested, the UAV permit holder shall supply to KT copies of any information, images or other data collected;

- (c) That the UAV permit may be suspended or cancelled immediately during periods of high risk (including forest operations, elevated fire danger levels or extreme winds or weather).

Notification

19. Holders of UAV operations permit must comply with KT's UAV Notification Procedure (PRC00136).

Compliance

20. To meet the requirements of this policy UAV operations permit holders must:

- (a) Comply with the terms of a UAV operations permit;
- (b) Comply with Part 91 of the CAA Rules;
- (c) Comply with Part 101 of the CAA Rules;
- (d) Hold certification (if necessary) under Part 102 of the CAA Rules;
- (e) Carry out their own risk assessment prior to any UAV operations commencing;
- (f) Implement any control measures, including emergency procedures, identified by their risk assessment;
- (g) Provide to KT adequate information, instruction, training and supervision to ensure competency with UAVs;
- (h) Utilise any PPE that is required; and
- (i) Be a registered user of (www.airshare.co.nz) (this is mandatory)

KT recommends also being a registered user of Flight Advisor (www.flightadvisornz.io)

Non-compliance

21. Failure to comply with this policy may result in a UAV operations permit being revoked, or in extreme cases a trespass notice being issued.

Definitions

22. In this policy:

- (a) **CAA** means the Civil Aviation Authority;
- (b) **CAA Rules** means the rules made under part 3 of the Civil Aviation Act 1990 (and include any amended or replacement rules);
- (c) **KT estate** means the land in the central North Island in and on which forestry operations are carried out by or on behalf of KT and includes any other sites under the control or management of KT;

- (d) **KT** means Kaingaroa Tipu, manager of the KT estate;
- (e) **Licensed insurer** means an insurer with a current minimum 'A' grade rating from an approved agency (pursuant to the Insurance (Prudential Supervision) Act 2010);
- (f) **Shielded operation** has the same meaning as in the CAA Rules (meaning the operation of a UAV within 100 metre of, and below the top of, a natural or man-made object);
- (g) **UAV** includes remotely piloted aerial systems (drones), and any other item or machine as detailed in clause 101.1 of part 101 of the CAA Rules.

Related Procedures, Forms & Frameworks

23. The following are key relevant documents:

- (a) KT UAV Operations Permit Application Form (FRM00138).
- (b) KT UAV Notification Procedure (PRC00136).
- (c) KT General Forest Access Rules & Behaviours for Business Permit Holders found at www.kt.co.nz.

Contact for Further Information:

If you have any queries regarding the content of this policy or need further clarification, contact the Policy Owner.

Document Management				
Version	Author	Revisions Made	Approved by	Date
1.0	Stuart Hickman	First Draft	Legal	1 June 2018
2.0	Stuart Hickman	Updated definition of KT Estate and other inconsequential typographical changes.	Legal	25 March 2025
3.0	Sandy Clarke	Updated company name, transferred to new policy template and reviewed content with minor changes.	Legal	27 November 2025