

Putting drone rules on the map

Birgit Kruse, Rachael Carter (Australia) and Tim Mollison

Key words: Cartography; e-Governance; Geoinformation/GI; Spatial planning; Standards

SUMMARY

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) launched the Local Drone Rules Map in February 2024. □ The Local Drone Rules Map is a product of the collaborative partnership between the Emerging Aviation Technology Policy and Geospatial Services teams at DITRDCA to ensure a sustainable methodology for the future capture and dissemination of drone rules. □ The Local Drone Rules Map is an open, iterative and digital-first approach to the key principle to make laws easier to find, access and understand. Drone rule digitisation helps reduce complexity of drone laws across jurisdictions. It reduces barriers to access and drives awareness to environmental and security-related laws. It encourages digital governance that is fit-for-purpose and able to adapt to the rapid growth of the sector. It supports users in compliance and better flight planning. □ Before the map's creation, a drone operator was required to check a wide range of government websites to identify what rules might affect their intended operation. □ For more than 18 months, the Emerging Aviation Technology Policy team worked diligently to collect and consolidate geospatial drone rules data from 46 responsible authorities across Commonwealth, state and territory agencies. □ The first release map shows 7,610 areas where local or non-safety drone laws apply for parks and correctional facilities across Australia. This provides recreational and commercial drone users with free, open and easy access to information all in one place to support awareness of local drone rules. □ Improved digitisation and consistency make it easier for digital drone systems to ingest information on laws that impact drone users and help operators plan flights that comply with these laws. □ The project is recognised in the Australian Government's Data and Digital Government Strategy, as part of moving towards simple, secure and connected services. □

Putting drone rules on the map (13237)

Birgit Kruse, Rachael Carter (Australia) and Tim Mollison

FIG Working Week 2025

Collaboration, Innovation and Resilience: Championing a Digital Generation

Brisbane, Australia, 6–10 April 2025