



Presented to	18 April 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council
Related to Item	Regulation of Drones
Submitted by	Cr T Fitzgerald
Attachments	Nil.

- x With Notice** to be provided 5 clear working days prior to the meeting
- Without Notice** an absolute majority resolution of the Council will be required for the motion to be considered
- For Urgent Consideration** Mayoral approval required

That the Council directs the CEO to:

- 1. Write to WALGA to request the development of a model local government policy for the regulation of drones,**
- 2. Offer WALGA such support as might be required in the formulation of such a policy, and**
- 3. Offer to assist WALGA, where required, in liaising with other local governments in WA and with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure on the development of such a policy.**

Objective, Benefit and Potential Risks to be considered

Objective: To progress the development of a unified approach to drone regulation across local governments in WA.

Benefit: Avoids the need to attempt bespoke drone regulation within the City of Melville, is more likely to achieve effective regulation in this area.

Risks: To some extent limits the opportunity for Council to progress bespoke regulation for the City of Melville only.



Reasons for the Motion

The Federal Government's National Emerging Aviation Technologies Policy Statement noted "The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC) in collaboration with state, territory and local governments and relevant Commonwealth agencies and authorities..."* would develop an appropriate regulatory response to increasing drone flights in and around residential and public areas.

Additionally, there have been recent examples of instances in which drones were flown in a manner which interfered with bird life at the Melville Bird Sanctuary, and in which the various local, state and federal authorities had, because of conflicting, unclear and overlapping authorities, limited capacity to respond. This follows on the back of earlier difficulties at other local governments, such as drones being flown over ANZAC Day dawn services, which required bespoke regulation by those LGs.

This motion seeks to assist in the preparation and progress of a unified position across WA local governments to the emerging issue of drone flights.

*<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-emerging-aviation-technologies-policy-statement.pdf>

I have discussed this matter with Officers

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Officer Comment / Notes

