

AUSTRALIAN AIRSPACE

AIRSPACE CLASSES

Australia uses five different airspace classes (A, C, D, E & G). The airspace classes differ in operational requirements and/or restrictions. All of the classes are controlled, except for Class G, which is uncontrolled.

Most drone operations are in **class G**, but in some cases visual line of sight operations (VLOS) can be conducted in class C & D airspace, when certain procedures are followed.

Controlled airspace is actively monitored by air traffic controllers, and to enter this airspace, an aircraft has to gain clearance from an air traffic controller.

In **uncontrolled airspace** there is no supervision by air traffic control and no clearance is required to operate in uncontrolled airspace. Most light aircraft and helicopters operate outside controlled airspace. In uncontrolled airspace pilots must still follow visual flight rules (VFR) or instrument flight rules (IFR).

CLASS A: This is high-level en route airspace and used mainly by commercial and passenger jets. Only manned IFR flight are permitted and they require clearance from air traffic control (ATC).

CLASS C: This is controlled airspace around major city airports. Clearance is required by all manned aircraft operating in Class C. IFR and VFR flights are permitted and pilots must communicate with ATC. Air traffic services are required to provide separation between traffic.

Commercial remotely piloted aircraft systems operating within 3NM of controlled aerodromes or above 400 feet Above Ground Level (AGL), must have prior written approval before operating in Class C. For operations within Class C outside of 3NM of the aerodrome boundary and below 400 feet AGL the operator must listen to the appropriate VHF radio frequency and have an observer present on site.

CLASS D: This is the controlled airspace around regional airports that have a control tower. All flights require ATC clearance. Commercial RPAS flights are only allowed if the appropriate guidelines are followed and you have written approval from CASA.

CLASS E: This mid-level en route controlled airspace is open to both IFR and VFR aircraft. IFR flights are required to communicate with ATC and must request ATC clearance. RPAS are not allowed to fly in this airspace.

CLASS G: This is uncontrolled airspace in which both IFR and VFR flights are permitted without ATC clearance. RPAS are allowed to fly in this airspace, without any clearance, but only if the drone rules and regulations are adhered to.

[CASA's Office of Airspace Regulation](#) (OAR) is responsible for restricted airspace: Only aircraft with specific permission are allowed to fly in restricted airspace. Examples of restricted airspace include air shows, public events, police operations, military airspace or bush fires.

