



# GPI POLICY - DRONE USE

## **Rational**

Unmanned aerial cameras, commonly known as Drones, are popular around the world for recreational, commercial or research purposes. They can be used for either still photography or videography.

The GPI Council allows the use unmanned aerial cameras throughout the Pitcairn Islands. This policy sets out the GPI Council approved rules for ensuring the privacy of local residents and the custodial care of Pitcairn's seasonal whale population and wildlife.

The Unmanned Aerial Camera Use Policy applies to all normally resident Pitcairn Islanders, GPI Public Service employees, HMG contracted staff, cruise ship companies and yachts and all visitors to the Pitcairn Islands i.e. Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno.

## **Using Unmanned Aerial Cameras within the Pitcairn Islands**

The following rules apply to the use of all unmanned aerial cameras, within the Pitcairn Islands Group, regardless of their intended use or weight.

The GPI Council is responsible for ensuring this policy is accessible to all visitors to the Pitcairn Islands including visiting yachts, other vessels and cruise ships.

## **General Consent Rules**

- Individuals wishing to operate an unmanned aerial camera on Pitcairn Island must first visit the Pitcairn Island Police station to register their intention.
- Individuals wishing to operate an unmanned aerial camera on Pitcairn Island will be provided with a copy of the GPI Unmanned Aerial Camera Use Policy and a copy of the Whale Booklet
- Flying unmanned aerial cameras over privately owned home or commercial land on Pitcairn Island is not allowed unless the operator has proven written consent from the owner.

## **General Use Rules**

- Unmanned aerial cameras must be used safely and respectfully at all times
- Sea and weather conditions must be taken into account throughout operations
- Retrieval of landed or grounded cameras is the responsibility of user at their own risk.
- Cameras in operation must be kept within the user's visual line of sight at all times
- Unless consent has been obtained cameras must not fly closer than 50m above an individual person or group
- Cameras must not interfere with wildlife or fly close to nesting birds or birds in flight.
- Cameras must not fly closer than 50m above whales at all times. Exceptions may be approved for research purposes allowing cameras to fly no closer than 30m above whales. Camera's must not fly closer than 50m of any vessel, vehicle or structure.

Date Policy last reviewed: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
Date Policy due for next review: July 2024



## GPI POLICY - DRONE USE

Use of **Unmanned Aerial Cameras** for Commercial & Research Purposes

Intention to use unmanned aerial cameras for commercial gain and/or scientific research within the Pitcairn Islands must be included in application submissions to the GPI Council. If granted the above rules apply

### **Penalties for Breaching GPI Council General Consent and General Use Rules**

Breaches of the listed General Consent and General Use Rules within the Pitcairn Islands may result in (*temporary*) confiscation of equipment.

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