



LEAVE YOUR DRONE AT HOME



(<https://cms.groupeditors.com/img/0a230c24-6266-4b57-a925-d56b5d6c4c58.jpg>)

A drone must be within sight of the operator at all times.

MOSSEL BAY NEWS - The school holidays have started and there are many people about.

Owners of drones are reminded of the regulations regarding operating these remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS).

A number of people have expressed concern to the Mossel Bay Advertiser that drone owners in Mossel Bay are not heeding regulations.



Holidaymakers in town should also take note of them.

Private owners may not fly drones legally in most of Mossel Bay because the space is within 10km of the airfield [in Aalwyndal]." It is illegal to fly within 10km of an airfield, airport or aerodrome.

Drones are classed as RPAS by the South African Civil Aviation Authority, which stipulates the legislation for their use.

Another rule is: "Do not fly or operate an RPA 50m or closer to any person or group of persons and any property without permission of the property owner."

People using drones to observe sports events should abide by this rule. Drones must not be flown higher than 150 feet from the ground, the rules stipulate, unless approved by the director of the SA Civil Aviation Authority.

There is concern that drones are being flown within controlled, restricted and prohibited airspaces, all three of which are illegal.

Also, they should not be flown adjacent to or near prisons, police stations, crime scenes or courts of law.

Another restricted area is the harbour in Mossel Bay. The harbour area is a no-fly zone, even for aeroplanes.

A drone must be within sight of the operator at all times.

It can only be operated within 500m of the pilot and must be flown below the height of the highest obstacle within a 300m radius.

People using drones for commercial purposes must have a licence for that use and the commercial regulations are extremely strict in South Africa.

See www.caa.co.za (<http://www.caa.co.za>) for the laws on drones.

The website, www.marketplace.org (<http://www.marketplace.org>), reports that police in the Bordeaux area of south-western France are pioneering the use of drones to catch drivers violating traffic laws.

They started in the European summer and have already issued hundreds of fines, thanks to the spies in the sky.

The operation in Bordeaux can result in between 15 and 20 vehicles being stopped every hour.

The report notes that while the technology is proving useful for pinpointing unsafe drivers, it doesn't yet have the ability to detect vehicles breaking the speed limit, though roadside cameras can still take care of those violations.

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