

POLICY STATEMENT 66

AVIATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

**Version No. 01
Last updated: 22 March 2010**

1. OBJECTIVE

To ensure the aviation safety of the Department's personnel, contractors and volunteers while undertaking the Department's approved aircraft operations.

2. APPLICATION

This aviation policy statement applies to aircraft operations conducted solely by the Department or jointly with other agencies or non-government organisations, on lands managed by the Department and/or in carrying out the Department's functions, using aircraft owned or air operators contracted by the Department.

3. CONTEXT

The background, principles, associated legislation, national bodies, and relation to other policies that inform and support this aviation policy are provided at **Appendix 1**.

4. STANDARDS

The aviation standards that apply to this aviation policy are provided at **Appendix 2**.

5. LEGISLATION

The Department carries out aircraft operations to perform its functions under the legislation it administers (principally the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, and *Environmental Protection Act 1986*); and other relevant legislation including the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*, *Emergency Management Act 2005*, and *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Aviation in the Department will be compliant with the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* (OSH Act), *Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961*, *Civil Liabilities Act 2002*, and *Airports Act 1996*.

Aviation in the Department will be compliant with the Acts, Regulations and Orders administered by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, and Airservices Australia.

6. POLICY

6.1 Occupational Health and Safety	The Department's aircraft operations will be planned and implemented so that risks are controlled, personnel are not exposed to hazards, and goods and services are provided safely and efficiently (Appendix 3).
6.2 Aviation requirements	The Department's aviation requirements will ensure and demonstrate agreed standards for planning, procurement, auditing and compliance, performance monitoring, and incident management when undertaking approved aircraft operations.
6.3 Aviation management	The Department's aviation management will ensure adherence to legislation, the maintenance of senior oversight in a dedicated aviation structure, trained and competent pilots and aircrew, and continuous improvement.
6.4 Approved Operator System	The Department will ensure an appropriate level of quality assurance for aircraft operators by establishing an Approved Operator List for casual air work.
6.6 Aviation training	The Department will require aircrew to be properly trained to ensure essential and specialist competencies, and acquired skills and practical capabilities are established and maintained for the safe, efficient and effective aircraft operations.
6.7 Aircraft infrastructure	Landing areas controlled by the Department will meet the designated safety standards and operational requirements of Civil Aviation Regulations.
6.6 Joint operations and external providers	The Department may enter agreements to conduct aircraft operations with a second party providing the aircraft operations are supported by approved contracts and joint Safety Management Plans for the activity.

7. CUSTODIAN

The Director of Regional Services is the custodian of the aviation policy and will be responsible for version control.

8. REVIEW

The Department's aviation policy will be subject to minimum mandatory review every three (3) years from the approval of this version.