# Defence Act 1903

If your project involves specified activity within a declared Defence Aviation Area, you must obtain approval in accordance with this Act.

## 1. What approvals do I need?

Defence Aviation Areas (DAA) are declared under the [*Defence Act 1903*](https://www.legislation.gov.au/C1903A00020/latest/text)and the [Defence Regulation 2016](https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2016L01568/latest/text)provides the framework for controlling activities within them. Within a DAA, approval is required for activities, structures and objects (including trees and other natural obstacles) that exceed specified height restrictions, generate gas plumes or air turbulence, or pose a hazard to aviation-related operations.

Approval may be needed for the following:

* permanent structures, including buildings and communication towers
* temporary structures, including cranes
* wind turbines and wind monitoring masts
* the temporary mooring of structures, including oil rigs and maritime vessels
* vegetation, including trees and plants used for landscaping
* gas plumes or air turbulence generated from an exhaust stack
* developments where activities may be hazardous to the safety of aircraft operations
* objects that may cause interference with other aviation-related communications, navigation or surveillance facilities, including transmitting antenna.

DAAs cover an area situated within a 15-kilometre radius of a Defence aerodrome. There are currently 14 DAAs across QLD, WA, VIC, SA, NSW and the NT. The location of each DAA, as well as a link to each individual Ministerial declaration, is available on the Department of Defence [website](https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/defence-aviation-areas-regulation).

The Ministerial declaration for each DAA specifies the heights at which proposed structures require approval.

If an object or activity is considered hazardous to aircraft or aviation-related communications, navigation or surveillance, approval is required regardless of height.

## 2. Who provides the approvals?

The delegate for the Minister for Defence makes decisions on whether to approve proposed developments within a DAA, having regard to advice from the Department of Defence.

## 3. How do I apply for the approvals?

Applications for approval for proposed activities, structures or objects within a DAA are submitted to the Department for Defence by [email](mailto:land.planning@defence.gov.au). Applications must contain detail on the height, location and purpose of the proposed development, as well as geographical and grid co-ordinates for the development.

Application requirements are available on the Department of Defence [website](https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/defence-aviation-areas-regulation).

## 4. More information

### Department of Defence

Further information on Defence Aviation Areas is available on the Department of Defence [website](https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/defence-aviation-areas-regulation).

The Department of Defence can be contacted by email at [land.planning@defence.gov.au](mailto:land.planning@defence.gov.au).

### Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify potential Australian Government regulatory approvals required for your project, please refer to the [Major projects help tool](https://business.gov.au/expertise-and-advice/major-projects-facilitation-agency/help-tool) self-assessment.

The MPFA team can be contacted by email at [MPFA@industry.gov.au](mailto:MPFA@industry.gov.au).