



## Fact sheet



### 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](#) and the [Defence Regulation 2016](#) 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](#).

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](#). 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](#).

#### 4. More information

##### Department of Defence

Further information on Defence Aviation Areas is available on the Department of Defence [website](#).

This fact sheet provides general information and does not constitute legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice tailored to your individual circumstances. The Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) assists major project proponents to navigate Australian Government approval processes. The MPFA does not grant approvals, nor administer the legislation listed in this fact sheet.

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](#) self-assessment.

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

This fact sheet provides general information and does not constitute legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice tailored to your individual circumstances. The Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) assists major project proponents to navigate Australian Government approval processes. The MPFA does not grant approvals, nor administer the legislation listed in this fact sheet.