

# Flying uncrewed aerial vehicles near Transgrid infrastructure

OCTOBER 2024

## Transgrid’s Commitment to Safety

At Transgrid, we are committed to ensuring the safety of the public and our employees, particularly around our network infrastructure, including our substations, transmission lines and telecommunication sites. Transgrid’s Easement Guidelines must be followed to minimise potential safety hazards from ground and aerial activities.

With the growing popularity of kites, model aircraft and drones, the risk of interaction with Transgrid infrastructure increases. These activities can potentially:

- cause disruption or damage to substations, transmission lines and telecommunication sites, and
- increase the safety risks to the community and Transgrid staff.

### Where can I fly:

No uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones), kites or model aircraft may be flown within Transgrid’s easements or operate in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, another person, or Transgrid’s assets.

Part 101 of the Civil Aviation Safety Regulation 1998 (Cth) sets out the requirements for the operation of unmanned aircraft including minimum flying distances away from any people and maximum heights above ground level.

The following restrictions also apply when flying near Transgrid transmission lines, substations and telecommunications sites:

- **Transmission Line Easements:** Uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones), kites or model aircraft are Not allowed within or over the easement of transmission lines. Refer to [Transgrid’s Easement Guidelines](#) for more information on planning an activity near a Transgrid easement as standard easements are up to 80m wide.
- **Substations and Telecommunication Sites:** No uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones), kites, or model aircraft are allowed to fly near or over the security fence surrounding substations or telecommunication sites

### Work-Related Activities:

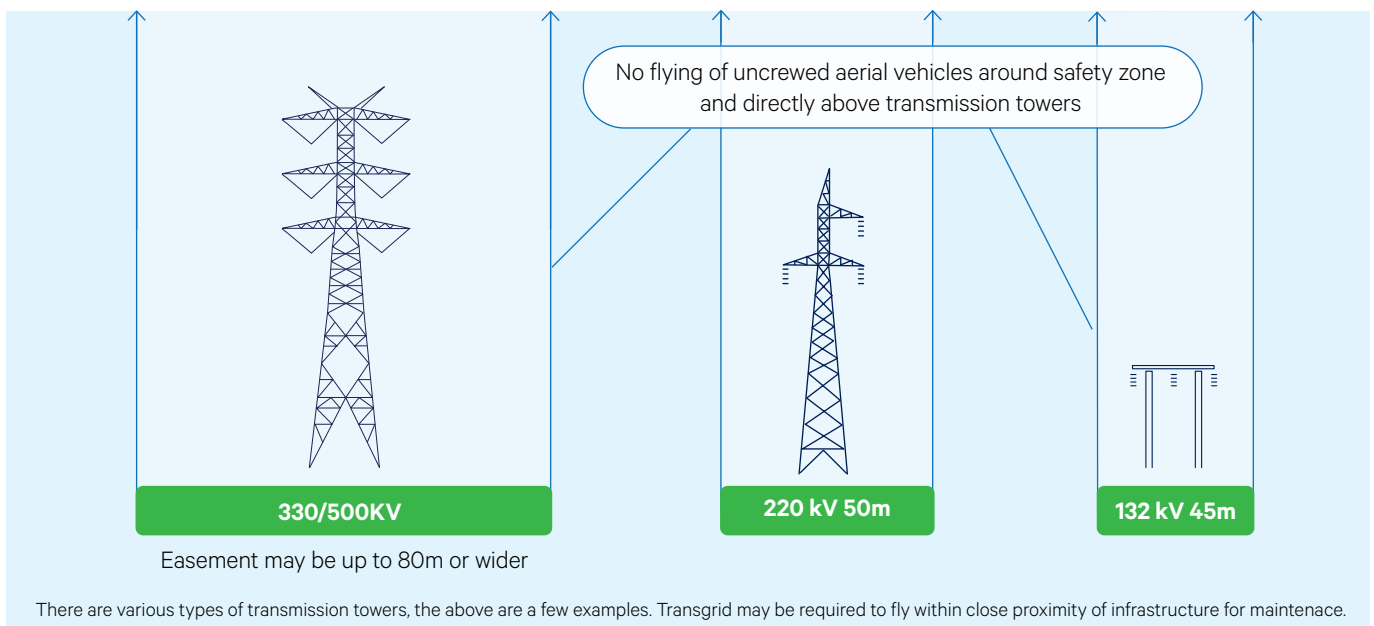
- For guidance on working near Transgrid assets, please refer to the [‘Living and working near transmission \(power\) lines’](#) section of Transgrid’s website for Transmission Lines:
- Contact Transgrid’s Community Engagement team, if further guidance is required.

## Safety and Compliance Requirements

**Regulations:** All drone operations must comply with Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations .

**Privacy:** Ensure adherence to Australian privacy laws regarding the capture, storage, use, and disposal of recorded information. Equipment attached to drones that records or transmits sound or visual images may be subject to surveillance devices legislation.

**No Unauthorised Recording:** Do not capture, use or store footage, images or audio of Transgrid infrastructure without written Transgrid consent.



**Image:** Diagram showing no flying zones around and over Transgrid transmission towers.



## Pre-Flight Checklist

Before operating any uncrewed aerial vehicles (drones), kites or model aircraft, ensure you:

**Review Look Up and Live:** Check that your planned flight path avoids flying near or crossing over Transgrid infrastructure.

Plan for the full reach of kite strings and other tethers as gust of wind could send string or other materials towards a live conductor.

**Use a Drone Safety App:** Utilise a safety app to assist with flight planning.

**Check Government Alerts:** Verify there are no fire or incident restrictions in the area.

**Review CASA Rules:** Familiarise yourself with and follow CASA's [drone safety rules](#).

**Consult with Transgrid:** Obtain necessary endorsement from Transgrid for your activity which may be near Transgrid infrastructure. Submit your requests as per [Transgrid's Easement Guidelines](#).

## During Flight

While flying an uncrewed aerial vehicle (drone) kite or model aircraft:

**Fly Only in Approved Areas:** Remain outside of Transgrid transmission line easements and not near or over substation or telecommunication site security fence that visibly surrounds the site. For drones you will also need to adhere strictly to the areas under regulation.

**Cease Operation if Necessary:** Stop flying immediately when emergency or bushfire operations are underway. If your drone exhibits erratic behaviour, pilots should move away, land the drone and check for any errors or warnings on the drone's controller.

For more details on our community engagement and awareness activities, please visit Transgrid's [website](#).

## How You Can Assist

### Help Us Manage Public Safety:

We appreciate your assistance in maintaining safety within our community.

Please report any individuals flying drones, kites or model aircraft within Transmission Line easements or at Substations and Telecommunications Sites

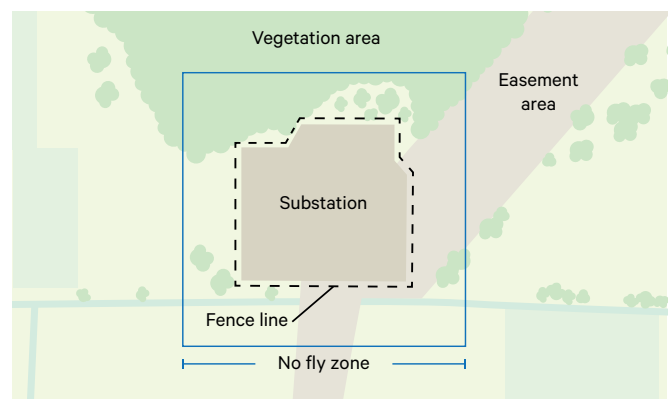
### Reporting Issues:

If you observe any of the following issues, please contact Transgrid:

- Fallen power lines
- Damaged power poles
- Vegetation encroaching on power lines
- Unauthorised activities near our assets

For immediate assistance, use the emergency contact number provided at the end of this fact sheet.

We encourage the safe flying of all drones as laid out on CASA's [drone flyer website](#).



**Image:** Example clearance zones around a substation.



### Other Reference:

For more information about drones, including definitions and categories visit, date cited December 2022 [casa.gov.au](#) Part 101 Micro and excluded Remotely Piloted Aircraft operations - Version 2.1 (casa.gov.au)  
[Transgrid living and working with easements guidelines 2024](#)

## Connect with us

Transgrid is committed to working with landowners and communities as we deliver on the Government's energy transition. We want to find solutions that work for everyone. **Please contact us for more information.**



**Emergencies 1800 027 253**  
General Enquiries 02 9284 3000  
Community Enquiries 1800 222 537

Our business hours are 8:30am – 5:00pm  
Find out more at: [transgrid.com.au](#)

**Privacy statement:** Transgrid recognises the importance of privacy and protecting the personal information it holds, uses and discloses in line with the Privacy Act. It is committed to protecting personal information and handling personal information responsibly and in accordance with its obligations.