

From: noreply@gurudigital.nz
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To: haveyoursay
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Submission Form - Use of Drones Policy 2026

Full Name

Denis Moresby

Organisation

Phone

[REDACTED]

Address

Postal - [REDACTED] Te kuiti 3941

Postcode

3941

Email

[REDACTED]

Your FEEDBACK

As many ellected reps. in the Waitomo District Council will have limited Drone Use I have outlined a brief outline as a local user, I just own one drone a DJI Air 2S. Bought it to hunt & fish with about 5 years ago. Its old tec by todays standards. Comes with Video display unit computer like control settings. Plus some exras like a Gannet line drop release for fishing..... ie you can fly a baited fishing line off the beach say 500 meters (has to be within sight for NZ legal requirements), as this model has bright lights it can still be seen at 500 meters). Its of a similar type to what most of the informed NZ Public have seen the Ukranie Army using on TV news. Ukranie Army flying out to 10 km (Using the same Video Display Unit) to drop small bombs on the Russian Army (using same gannet line release). You just watch people on the display press a button & drone comes home back to get another Bomb, or in my case another 6 oz sinker & baited line. Note as of last year Ukraine flies drones by fibre cable not radio wave or satilite to avoid Russian Drone jammers. Had intended using mine for air survey & hunting use but I should have bought a different control system linked to my smart phone or used a larger screen with a thermal camera. I Bought my Drone from Ferntec Ltd in AK & they do have all of that but failed to explain pro's & con's clearly. They were unable to give me a demonstration flight at Mystery Creek Hamilton Show, at the time, due to drone flying restrictions. Result was thousands of farmers buying the wrong drones! (Most modern farms now use drones). Last year this HUGE WASTE OF MONEY VIA BAD COUNCIL POLICY & CIVIL AVIATION LAW WAS FIXED! The 2025 Farm fielddays at mistrey creek show DID ALLOW DRONE DEMO"S. They did this by having a small council approved area & limiting the hight a drone demonstrations could fly at. If your Waitomo Council wish to learn about the restrictions used then talk to Mystrey Creek Orgainisation. The numbers of drones being sold to farmers at the farm fielddays is rising each year. At the 2026 show there will be hundreds of different types of farm drone demo! This is important as without any central place NEAR a town for buyers to "test" drones \$millions of dollars of the wrong types of recreational & agricultural drone will get sold & wasted! As to what the Waitomo District Council should do in Te Kuiti? I

would suggest a few hundred meters of Brook Park be marked out with a limit of 30 meters flight height. For test flights! Flights at set times 3 times per week only by council permit at a SMALL fee. If this saves the loss of a few hundred thousand dollars of drones happening here & now & illegal use it's worth it! THIS IS A FAST GROWING ISSUE! AS REGARDS the hunting aspect's suggest council contact Piopio man John Grey (Lives Just South of Piopio) I had a friend (Peter Holbrook) go out for a day with John & they caught 60 wild goats using the drones to round up said goats instead of dogs. John has videos of this work that he shows to the public at Sika Show & similar ag/hunting expo's. & many years of experience using hunting drones. It is mind blowing to watch his videos! A video of drones mustering stock opens eyes! I also suggest the council send a person to this year's Farm Fielddays at Mystery Creek near Hamilton Airport June 2026. Watch drone demo speak to the sellers. Waitomo is a farming area. Drone spraying of farm weeds is rapidly replacing all other weed spraying. Farmers are now commonly using drones to check stock, fences, water leaks! In Tekuiti this year I have seen an official looking person in a safety vest recently park & fly a LARGE drone up & down South St seemed to be checking power pole tops. (Instead of someone climbing each one with a ladder, minutes of work instead of a day's). Drones are an important part of the future of all of us & it is an equally important thing to have a small height restricted area in or near towns. Council controlled, for the many CHILDREN flying drones & Adults TESTING new drone accessories! One point to finish on, have a niece married to an AK drone expert. He mentioned to me one council he deals with in a NZ tourist town is receiving thousands of crashed drones handed in to them each year due to tourists buying drones to take scenic photos & as they have no NZ practice areas they crash them..... lots of similar stories in this area now but as the drones are going down in the sea & on farms/forestry these drones are not being handed in! No need for me to speak to council..... just pointing out your drone use in Waitomo is likely UNDER reported growing fast, have given you a "users view" to help council in its forward planning.

Submissions

I wish to speak to Council about my submission

No

I am not a robot