

Recreational Aviation Australia

Factsheet



RAAus is a for-purpose organisation approved by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to administer aircraft commonly known as "ultralights" or Light Sport Aircraft (LSA).

At the time of publication, RAAus has over 8,700 flying members, 3,200 aircraft and 160 Flight Training Schools across Australia.

Regulatory Framework

The regulatory power for RAAus operations is contained in three Civil Aviation Orders (CAOs). These orders outline requirements for aircraft registered with RAAus and provide exemptions to certain Civil Aviation Regulations (CARs) specifically for RAAus aircraft.

- CAO 95.10 is concerned with single seat aircraft with a Maximum Take Off Weight (MTOW) of 300kg.
- CAO 95.32 relates to weight shift aircraft including Trikes or Microlights and Powered Parachutes whose MTOW does not exceed 600kg.
- CAO 95.55 contains information relevant to three-axis aircraft which can weigh up to 600kg and tend to look more like a traditional aircraft with traditional control systems.

CASA remains the regulator and hold overarching responsibility for ensuring compliance of our Operations, Safety and Technical departments.

Aircraft Information

The majority of aircraft registered by RAAus are 3 axis aircraft which can be single seat, home built, rag and tube aircraft or factory built, high-performance, two-seater aircraft constructed from fibreglass, metal or fabric.

Other aircraft registered by RAAus include weight shift microlights or trikes which look like a hang glider wing with a suspended base for the engine, pilot and passenger.

A final group of aircraft registered by RAAus are Powered Parachutes (PPC) which are large collapsible parachute wings with a suspended base or "kart" for the engine, pilot and passenger.

- A paraglider is a similar looking aircraft, being a large parachute, however the aircraft is foot launched and are often registered by our sister organisation, the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia (HGFA). The HGFA also register a number of weight shift trikes and these can be distinguished using the registration markings T2-XXXX.

The key limiting factor for RAAus registration relates to the aircraft Maximum Take Off Weight (MTOW). The upper limit for aircraft to be registered with RAAus is currently 600kg. In addition to this weight limit, RAAus aircraft are also limited to a maximum of two seats.

Aircraft that exceed these guides are not able to be registered with RAAus and are often registered with CASA. These are distinguished by their registration markings VH-ABC.

RAAus registered aircraft contain a four-digit registration number prefixed by 10-, 19-, 24-, 25-, 28-, 32-, 55- or 23-.

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Reporting Framework

RAAus Pilots have reporting obligations to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) in regard to aircraft accidents, incidents or defects and RAAus are not provided with any of the protection of the Transport Safety Investigation Act (2003).

All aircraft accidents are investigated by RAAus to varying degrees using a range of investigative means including desktop audits, interviews of full on-site investigations. All fatal accidents are also investigated by RAAus however, assistance is only provided at the invitation of police at the LAC. RAAus' investigations are conducted purely for the benefit of the organisation in order to identify and respond to any safety issues determined as a result of such investigations. Fatal accident reports are provided to police and Coroners and include industry, technical and specialist aviation knowledge.

RAAus Management, Staff and Board of Directors

RAAus has 15 full-time employees and is headquartered in Fyshwick, ACT.

Some RAAus staff responsible for specific departments operate remotely and are based in various geographic locations around Australia.

RAAus core departments include Operations (relating to Pilot certification and training through flight training schools), Technical (relating to aircraft compliance and registration), Safety (relating to the organisational Safety Management System and WHS) and Administration.

All media contact in relation to a fatal aircraft accident is through the CEO via the RAAus Head Office on 02 6280 4700.

Any information released to RAAus members is subject to approval from the relevant police force media contact and coroner.