

# MODEL AERONAUTICAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



## MODEL AIRCRAFT SHARING AIRSPACE WITH HANG GLIDERS AND PARAGLIDERS POLICY

MOP046

APPROVED M.A.A.A. PRESIDENT

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## **MODEL AIRCRAFT SHARING AIRSPACE WITH HANG GLIDERS AND PARAGLIDERS POLICY**

### **1. Policy**

On safety grounds, the MAAA does not support the operation of model aircraft of any type in close proximity and/or in the same immediate airspace as Hang Gliders and Paragliders.

### **2. Rationale**

The difference in flying speed between models and piloted gliders is considerable and can lead to a collision risk. Model gliders typically operate at a much higher flying speed than hang gliders and paragliders, making it difficult to establish a set soaring pattern without conflict. Additionally, operating in close proximity is made more difficult due to the fact that the model aircraft pilot remains on the ground, thus making it more difficult for the pilot to judge the distance of the model from other aircraft.

These reasons mean that compliance with CASR (1998) Part 101 Clause 101.05 cannot be guaranteed. This states that

*(1) A person must not operate an unmanned aircraft in a way that creates a hazard to another aircraft, another person or property.*

However the MAAA recognises that good soaring sites are usually suitable for both hang gliders, paragliders and model aircraft. Since conditions at each site are different it is recommended that if MAAA Associate Members use a slope that is also used by piloted gliders then their Club should have discussions with the local Hang Gliding Club regarding methods to share the site. These could include physical separation to a safe distance, or separate flying times. These would be specific to the conditions at the particular site.

Difficulties may arise in achieving this and in this case advice from the local State Association should be obtained. If the issue cannot be settled locally and the MAAA Associate Members have a substantive case, the MAAA is prepared to hold discussions with the Hang Gliding Federation of Australia to try to resolve it.