



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

# Privacy Guidelines Submissions Summary

## What we did

Following the integration of feedback from various working groups and consultative committees into the Draft Privacy Guidelines (the Guidelines) in November 2022, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts (the department) released the Privacy Guidelines for Drone Use for public consultation on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The consultation asked for feedback on the guidelines from the wider public to ensure the Drone Privacy Principles (DPPs), written by the department, are applicable to all operators and that privacy expectations are well communicated. Consultations on the Guidelines closed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, the public submissions have been uploaded to [Drones.gov.au](https://drones.gov.au).

## What you said

The department received 12 submissions to the Guidelines, 3 were from recreational users, 5 were from commercial, and the remaining 4 were from non-drone users.

### Recreational

Some recreational users made the comment that the draft Guideline's language could create a negative view of drones if there is too heavy a focus on the technology as a tool specifically to breach people's privacy. It was suggested that the wording of the document may unfairly portray drone users, recreational or commercial, as not currently adhering to Australian privacy law. Some submissions also questioned the degree to which current recreational drones were able to accurately capture personal or private information due to the limited quality of some camera or microphone attachments.

### Commercial

Commercial users were broadly supportive of the development of the Guidelines. Some operators commented on the document's guidance and its relation to existing legislation. It was recommended the Guidelines should better align with current privacy expectations of commercial users. It was also suggested cooperative technologies currently under consideration by government, such as Remote Identification, could play a part in supporting privacy outcomes.

## What we're doing

The department has taken the submissions into consideration whilst preparing the final version of the Drone Privacy Guidelines. The Guidelines have been edited to better reflect current legislation and to be more aligned with general privacy expectations from users. The department has revised the language throughout the Guidelines to reduce potential misunderstanding of purpose and limit unintended negative connotations for drone operators.

To ensure continued applicability of the Drone Privacy Guidelines, a review will be conducted on a regular basis following publication. This will allow the department to update the Guidelines according to new and emerging privacy expectations or advice from local, state and territory governments. A section including this evaluation has been added to the Guidelines.

The department has published the public submissions and will soon publish the finalised Privacy Guidelines For Drone Use, following required editing, to [Drones.gov.au](https://drones.gov.au).