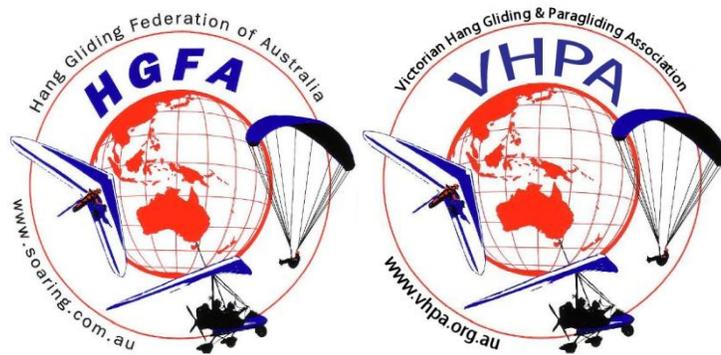


APPLICATION FOR CASA EXEMPTION



V 1.0

Application for Permission – Hang Gliding and Paragliding Operations at Mentone and Red Bluff

The HGFA and VHPA seek permission to conduct Hang Gliding and Paragliding operations at Mentone and Red Bluff as an exemption under paragraph 5.1 of Civil Aviation Orders 95.8 (CAO 95.8).

Date: 20-October-2009

Application for CASA Exemption

APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION – HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING OPERATIONS AT MENTONE AND RED BLUFF.

INTRODUCTION

The Hang Gliding Federation of Australia (HGFA) and the Victorian Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (VHPA) seek permission to conduct flying operations at the Mentone and Red Bluff sites within the Melbourne metropolitan area.

These sites are currently closed as they are located within 8km of an aerodrome used by regular public transport services.

As pilots will not be permitted to exceed a maximum altitude of 300 feet ASL then the HGFA and VHPA request an exemption under paragraph 5.1 of Civil Aviation Orders 95.8 (CAO 95.8) and permission to conduct hang gliding and paragliding operations at these sites.

SITE DETAILS

The Mentone and Red Bluff sites are cliff launches which will be operational for hang gliding and paragliding pilots when prevailing winds arrive from the SSW through to SW directions. By using lift generated by updrafts along the cliffs, the HG and PG plots will be able to only soar while maintaining an altitude of no more than 300 feet above cliff height.

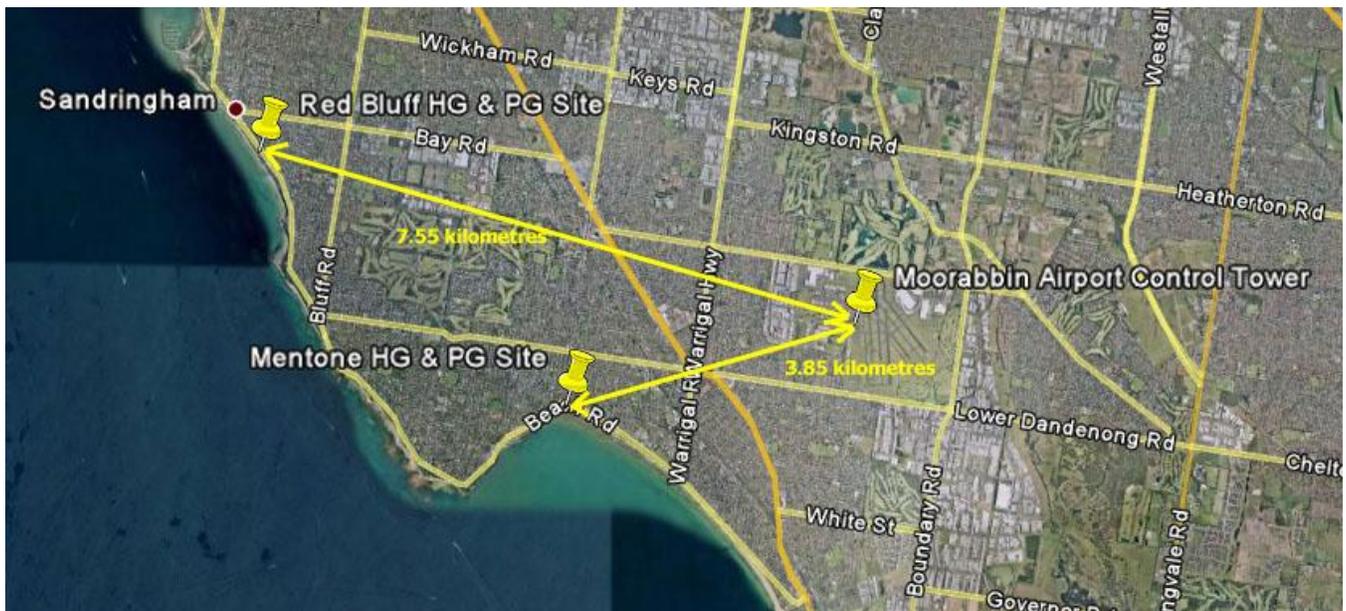


Figure 1: Location of Mentone and Red Bluff Sites in relation to Moorabbin Airport Control Tower.



Figure 2: Location of Mentone and Red Bluff Sites in relation to airspace.

Mentone



Figure 2: Red Bluff Site – indicating Launch, Landing and No Fly Zones.

Pilots at Mentone would launch from the grassy picnic area at a distance greater than 25 metres from the main road. The shaded road area indicated the “no fly” zone and constitutes the area where flying would be prohibited. The beach below launch would constitute the Landing Zone and, due its size, represents an easy and safe option.

Red Bluff

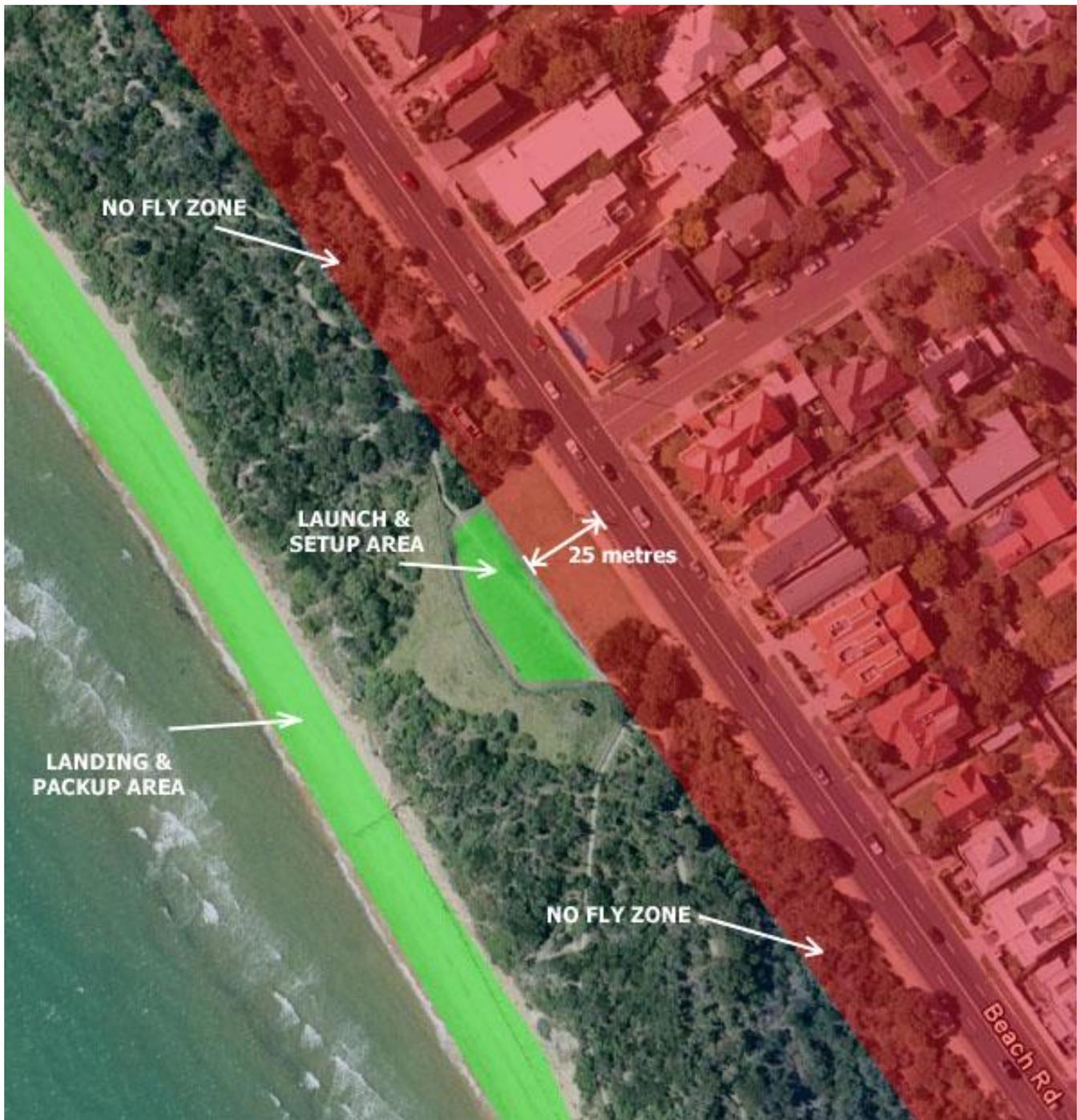


Figure 2: Red Bluff Site – indicating Launch, Landing and No Fly Zones.

Pilots at Red Bluff site would launch from the grassy picnic area at a distance greater than 25 metres from the main road. The shaded read area indicated the “no fly” zone and constitutes the area where flying would be

prohibited. The beach below launch would constitute the Landing Zone and, due its size, represents an easy and safe option.

SITE OPERATIONS

The Mentone and Red Bluff sites will be the joint responsibility of the Melbourne Hang Gliding Club (for hang gliding operations) and the Skyhigh Paragliding Club (for paragliding operations). It is the primary responsibility of both these clubs to ensure that pilots and members of the public remain safe and all flight operations are conducted in a regulated and controlled manner. As such, all pilots flying this site must be current financial members of the HGFA and either the Melbourne Hang Gliding Club or the Skyhigh Paragliding Club. Pilots will be prevented from launching if on request they fail to provide evidence of these memberships.

As the site is within controlled airspace of Moorabbin Airport then all pilots will maintain an altitude of less than 300 feet ASL at all times. In accordance with this requirement, and as directed by Civil Aviation Order 95.8 Section 4.7 (b) all pilots will fly with a serviceable altimeter which meets the standards specified in section 103.3 of the Civil Aviation Orders and in a position so as to be easily read by the pilot at all times whilst in flight.

All pilots will abide by CAO 95.8 Section 4.7(i) which states that, “a person must not fly a hang glider, except as provided for in CAO 95.8 Section 4.7 (j) at a height lower than 100 feet within a horizontal distance of 25 metres from: (i) a public road; (ii) persons other than those persons directly associated with the operation of hang gliders at the launch or landing sites; or (iii) a dwelling except with the permission of the occupier;”

CAO 95.8 4.7 (j) states that “A person must not fly a hang glider during the launching phase closer than a horizontal distance of 25 metres from persons other than those persons directly associated with the operation of hang gliders unless those other persons are behind a line passing through the launch point at right angles to the intended direction of flight.”

The sites would be exempt from CAO 95.8 Section 4.7 (e)(i), which states “a person must not fly a hang glider in controlled airspace: (i) within 1.6 kilometres of a controlled aerodrome”. All pilots will abide by CAO 95.8 Section 4.7 (e)(ii) which states “a person must not fly a hang glider in controlled airspace: (ii) more than 300 feet above the ground”.

Pilot Rating

The Mentone and Red Bluff sites will be rated as INTERMEDIATE sites. This means that pilots flying these sites will be required to hold an Intermediate Hang Gliding Pilot Certificate or an Intermediate Paragliding Pilot Certificate, as issued by the HGFA.

As per section 7.3.3 of the HGFA Operations Manual, an Intermediate Pilots is defined as follows:

An applicant for the issue of a Intermediate Pilot Certificate shall:

- (a) hold a valid Restricted Pilot Certificate;
- (b) sign a declaration on the application form that his or her health complies with Section 7.2.2 (a) of this (HGFA Operations) manual;
- (c) have successfully passed theory and in-flight examinations in accordance with the requirements of this manual, thus demonstrating to an appropriate HGFA Examiner or Instructor that he or she has

reached the level of competency required for the issue of an Intermediate Pilot Certificate. Note that the requirements for theory and in-flight examinations are determined by the type of aircraft for which the pilot certificate is being sought;

(d) be a full member of the HGFA.

Prior to undertaking a flight test for the issue of an Intermediate Pilot Certificate an applicant shall:

(a) have completed a minimum of 25 hours flying experience over a minimum of 25 flying days in aircraft

of the type for which the Intermediate Pilot Certificate is sought; or

(b) if having previous flying experience in hang gliders or paragliders have completed at least 25 hours flying experience over a minimum of 25 flying days, of which a minimum of 15 hours flying experience must be gained in an aircraft of the type for which the Intermediate Pilot Certificate is sought.

Under no circumstances will pilots holding a Novice Hang Gliding Pilot Certificate or a Novice Paragliding Pilot Certificate be allowed to fly these sites.

Under no circumstances will student pilots be allowed to fly these sites.

Under no circumstances will commercial or non-commercial tandem hang gliding or tandem paragliding operations be allowed to use these sites.

All pilots flying these sites for the first time will be required to participate in a "Site Briefing" prior to launching. The site briefing will inform the pilot as to the various hazards associated with the sites, the appropriate conditions for flying the sites and any other information relating to the current circumstances of the sites. An entry will be made in the pilot's log book indicating that a site briefing has taken place and the pilot is appropriately informed to fly the sites. The site briefing will be conducted by a Senior Safety Officer (SSO), Safety Officer (SO) or appropriated instructed Advanced Pilot, who will sign the entry in the pilot's log book.

Public Safety

With pilots holding an appropriate Intermediate or Advanced Pilot Certificate and having received a detailed site briefing, then there will be no significant risk to members of the public. In addition, pilots licensed with the HGFA are covered by Third-party Insurance policy – the amount of indemnity for anyone incident being up to AUD \$10 million. (See Appendix A “Certificate of Insurance” for details).

Emergency Plan

In the event of an emergency the appropriate emergency service will be notified by dialing 000. In addition, the nearest club Senior Safety Officer (SSO) or Safety Officer (SO) or Committee Member will be notified.

Landowner Approval

The Mentone site falls under the jurisdiction of the Kingston City Council. At present there are no by-laws prohibiting the use of paragliding or hang gliding activities within the council’s boundaries. However, should CASA approval be granted, then the VHPA and HGFA will formally approach the Kingston City Council to ensure appropriate concerns are covered and council officers are aware of HG and PG operations.

The Red Bluff site falls under the jurisdiction of the Bayside City Council. At present there is a by-law which restricts the use of any aircraft being launched from council lands. However, there are similar activities (e.g. kite surfing and land yachts) already operating safely on council lands with similar risk factors. Therefore, should CASA approval be granted, the VHPA and HGFA will formally approach the Bayside City Council to allow the current by-law to be waived, to ensure appropriate concerns are covered and council officers are aware of HG and PG operations.

SUMMARY

The Hang Gliding Federation of Australia (HGFA) and the Victorian Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (VHPA) seek permission to conduct flying operations at the Mentone and Red Bluff sites within the Melbourne metropolitan area.

These sites are currently closed as they are located within 8km of an aerodrome used by regular public transport services.

Specifically, the HGFA and VHPA seeks exemption from CAO 95.8 Section 4.7 (e)(i), which states “a person must not fly a hang glider in controlled airspace: (i) within 16 kilometres of a controlled aerodrome”. In addition, we seek exemption from of the HGFA Operations Manual Section 6.5.10 “Operation in the Vicinity of an Aerodrome – Hang Gliders and Paragliders” which states “Except with the carriage and use of VHF airband radio, a hang glider or paraglider shall not be flown: (a) below 3000’ agl within 8 kilometres of an aerodrome used by regular public transport services;”