

Snowy Mountain Wave Soaring Areas

Letter of Agreement

LoA_249

Version 15

Effective 09 February 2023

Between: Airservices Australia (Airservices)/High Density Services (Southern FIR)
(Alpine, Monaro)
Canberra Gliding Club

Authorised

High Density Services (Southern FIR) - Patrick Klova
Airservices Australia

John Young
President
Canberra Gliding Club

This document remains valid until varied or terminated in accordance with the terms of this Letter of Agreement.

Change summary

LoA_249 Version 15: Effective 09 February 2023		
Clause number and/or title	Change description	Change Request Id
8	Amend Canberra Gliding Club (Secondary Contact) to read CFI	23639

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Table of contents

1	Purpose	3
2	Scope	3
3	Pilot briefing	3
4	Operations within Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas	3
4.1	Option 1 – Individual operations	4
4.2	Option 2 – Programmed multiple operations	4
5	Flight notification	5
6	Clearances	5
7	Radio fail procedures	5
8	Contacts	6
9	Noise – minimisation	6
10	Miscellaneous	6
10.1	Costs	6
10.2	Variation	6
10.3	Termination	6
10.4	No legal effect	6
11	Definitions	7
Appendix A	Low	8
A.1	Definition – Snowy Mountain Wave Soaring Area – Low	8
Appendix B	High	9
B.1	Definition – Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Area – High	9
Appendix C	Protective Airspace	10
C.1	Definition	10

1 Purpose

Throughout the year meteorological conditions suitable for high-altitude soaring in mountain waves exist in the Cooma region of NSW and are used by glider pilots operating from the Canberra Gliding Club's airfield at Bunyan, (12 NM NE of Cooma – Snowy Mountains Airport).

The Canberra Gliding Club holds its Annual Wave Camp at Bunyan during August/September each year.

Pilots operating from Bunyan may attempt to exceed the Australian height record which is currently in excess of FL330.

Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) provides a general approval for gliders to operate in Class A airspace, and exempts them from the requirement to carry ADS-B equipment. A condition of that approval is for a Letter of Agreement (LoA) be established between Airservices Australia (Airservices) and the Canberra Gliding Club.

This LoA reflects the agreement between the parties on operational issues (for which no consideration is provided).

2 Scope

This LoA sets out options for glider operations on an individual, random basis or for programme Wave Soaring Camps.

3 Pilot briefing

The Canberra Gliding Club is responsible for ensuring that pilots in command of gliders operating into Class A airspace from Bunyan under the authority of the Canberra Gliding Club are briefed on this LoA and any conditions specified by CASA.

4 Operations within Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas

Gliders operating in the Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas must comply with all applicable CASA regulations and this LoA. Where specific approval is required for particular operations, pilots must ensure that such approval is arranged or held by the Canberra Gliding Club. This LoA does not obviate gaining such approval, nor grant exemption from compliance with any CASA regulation.

Air Traffic Control (ATC) is required to provide a separation service to all flights operating in Class A airspace.

A variation to the level of service provided to glider operations to allow no Air Traffic Services including no separation service requires the declaration of Protective Airspace.

The following options are available to glider operators:

Option 1

Individual Operations without the declaration of Protective Airspace:

- For individual or random flights
- Operators are separated from other airspace users.

Option 2

Programmed Multiple Operations with the declaration of Protective Airspace:

- For multiple flights operating during a known period (e.g. Annual Wave Soaring Camp).

4.1 Option 1 – Individual operations

Only one glider at a time will be issued a clearance to operate within the Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas.

Gliders will be given priority on a first come first served basis. IFR flights in Class A airspace have priority over Gliders.

A full ATC service will be provided. Gliders will therefore be:

- Separated from all other airspace users
- Required to contact ATC approaching FL245 and request airways clearance. E.g. 'Melbourne Centre, glider ANO, request clearance to operate in the Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Area, up to FL270'.
- Subject to other traffic, ATC will issue a clearance up to and including the level advised
- Required to remain on 120.75 MHz
- Required to operate on a 30 minute reporting schedule (120.75 MHz)
- Required to report leaving FL245 on descent upon completion of Wave Soaring operations.

Note: Glider must operate within the boundary of the Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas Low or High and to level restrictions as advised in the ATC clearance.

4.2 Option 2 – Programmed multiple operations

Prior to the Annual Wave Camp or when planning to operate more than one glider simultaneously in Class A airspace, it is the Canberra Gliding Club's responsibility to submit an Airspace Change Proposal (ACP) to CASA Office of Airspace Regulation (OAR) to make an assessment for the establishment of Protective Airspace. OAR will promulgate a NOTAM defining the Protective Airspace.

The lateral boundary of the Protective Airspace encompasses both Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas and visual navigation tolerances. Buffers are also applied to contain VFR altimeter errors. See [Appendix C](#) for the definition of the Protective Airspace.

Note: Glider must operate within the boundary of the Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas Low or High and to level restrictions as advised in the ATC clearance.

In conjunction with Protective Airspace NOTAM the OAR will promulgate the Intense Glider Flying NOTAM as per [Appendix C](#). In other instances this may be promulgated by Melbourne ATC.

4.2.1 Operations within the Protective Airspace

Melbourne Centre (120.75 MHz) is the controlling authority for the Protective Airspace.

Gliders require individual clearances from ATC (120.75 MHz) to enter and operate within the Danger Area. Gliders must report approaching FL245 (the base of Class A airspace) and request clearance advising the upper level of expected operations.

E.g. 'Melbourne Centre, glider ANO, request clearance to operate in the Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Area, up to flight level 270.'

Subject to IFR traffic, ATC will issue a clearance up to and including the level requested. IFR flights have priority over gliders.

Gliders will not be provided with any Air Traffic Services and are required to operate on the gliding frequency (122.7 MHz) once established within the Protective Airspace.

Gliders must be contactable via the Canberra Gliding Club – Mobile Operations Van contact number below, or on 122.7 MHz.

Gliders must report leaving FL245 on descent to ATC on 120.75 MHz confirming they are clear of Class A airspace.

5 Flight notification

For wave soaring above FL245, flight details must be notified to Melbourne Centre via the contact telephone numbers below (alternatively to ATC direct on 120.75 MHz or 119.4 MHz) at least one hour prior to a request for a clearance. Flight details will be obtained and planned into Eurocat.

6 Clearances

Subject to traffic, gliders will be issued a clearance as per the following:

1. For operations up to and including FL300 the lateral limits of the clearance will be defined as Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Area – Low
2. If operations above FL300 are requested, the lateral limits of the clearance will be defined as Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Area – High.

7 Radio fail procedures

Gliders becoming aware that they may have suffered a radio failure should, as soon as possible, leave FL245 on descent and land. They should continue to broadcast intentions and broadcast when leaving FL245.

Broadcasts should be prefixed with 'Transmitting Blind'.

After landing they must report arrival to Melbourne Centre on the Melbourne Centre – ATC (Console) telephone number.

8 Contacts

The following telephone numbers are available:

Organisation	Telephone number
Melbourne Centre – Shift Manager	03 9235 7496
Canberra Gliding Club – Mobile Operations Van (First point of contact)	0428 523 994
Canberra Gliding Club – CFI (Secondary point of contact)	0423 788 263
Canberra Gliding Club – President	0417 292 784

9 Noise – minimisation

The parties to this LoA:

1. agree to take all reasonable measures to minimise noise disturbance to members of the community
2. are aware of potential noise outcomes relating to the operations associated with this LoA and will work together to identify, investigate and where possible implement noise improvement measures
3. agree that future reviews of this LoA will take into consideration any noise complaints relating to the operations undertaken as part of this LoA.

10 Miscellaneous

10.1 Costs

Each party must bear its own costs in performing this LoA.

10.2 Variation

No variation or amendment to this LoA will apply unless:

1. it is in writing, authorised by each party to this LoA and
2. results in a new version of this document.

10.3 Termination

1. Either party may terminate this LoA by providing the other party with advance written notice of the termination date.
2. Airservices may terminate this LoA with immediate effect if Canberra Gliding Club becomes insolvent.

10.4 No legal effect

This LoA is not intended to create any legal rights or obligations as between Airservices and Canberra Gliding Club.

11 Definitions

Within this document, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
LoA	This Letter of Agreement, including all attachments and appendixes.
Insolvent	Being insolvent under administration, insolvent or in liquidation, administration or receivership or having a controller, receiver, liquidator or administrator appointed as defined under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), being declared bankrupt or assigning its estate for the benefit of creditors, being dissolved or wound up or having something with the same or similar effect happen under the laws of any jurisdiction.
Protective Airspace	Airspace declared by the Office of Airspace Regulation following receipt and assessment of an Airspace Change Proposal. The airspace accommodates activities that may be incompatible with routine flying operations and could be declared as a Prohibited, Restricted or Danger Area. Such airspace is predicated on an airspace risk assessment and enables an activity to be conducted to an Acceptable Level of Safety (ALoS).

Appendix A Low

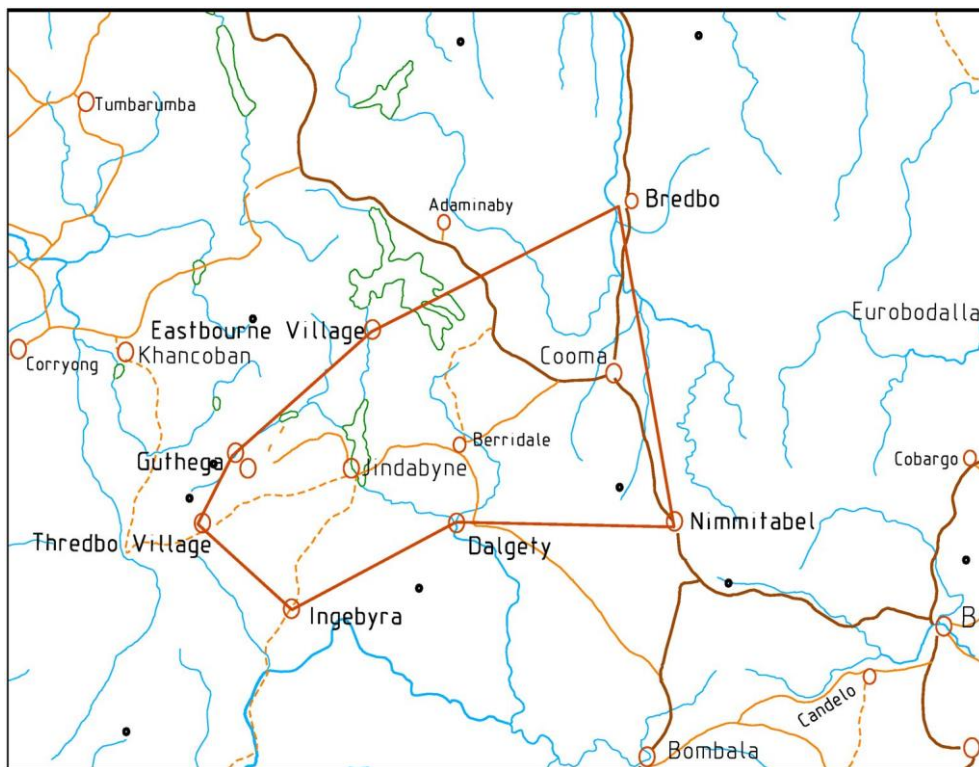
A.1 Definition – Snowy Mountain Wave Soaring Area – Low

Lateral limits

- Bredbo Village (35 57S 149 09E)
- Eastbourne Village (36 10S 148 39E)
- Guthega Village (36 23S 148 22E)
- Thredbo Village (36 30S 148 18E)
- Ingebyra Village (36 39S 148 30E)
- Dalgety Village (36 30S 148 50E)
- Nimmitabel Village (36 30S 149 17E)
- Bredbo Village (35 57S 149 09E).

Vertical limits

ABV FL245 to FL300.



Appendix B High

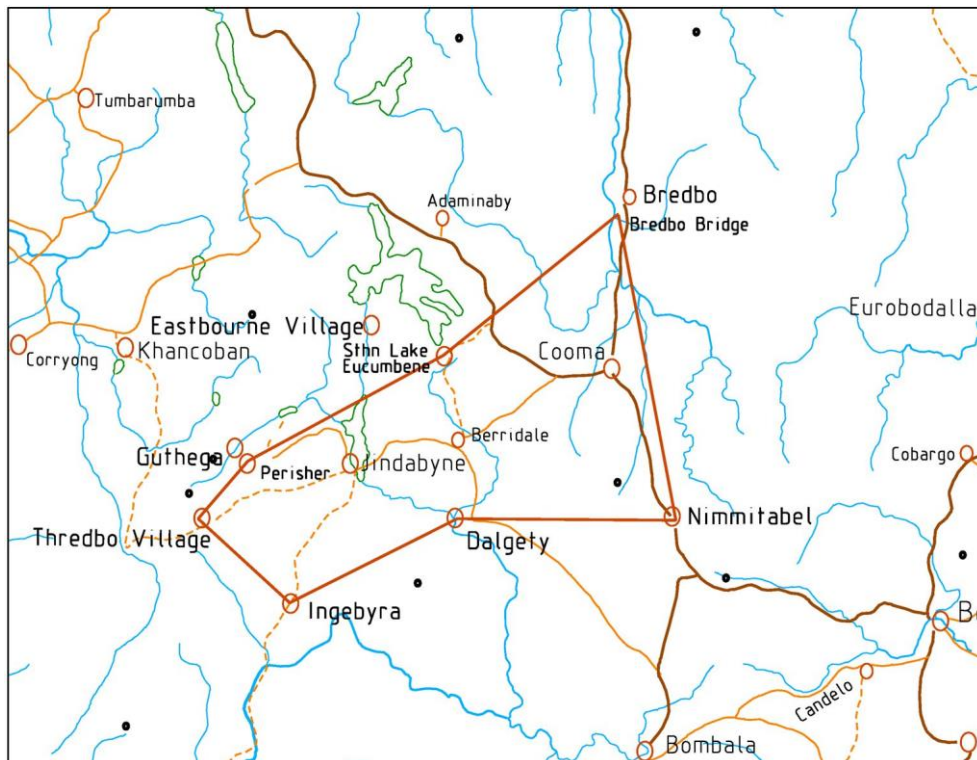
B.1 Definition – Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Area – High

Lateral limits

- Bredbo Road River Bridge (35 58S 149 09E)
- South Tip of Eucumbene (36 13S 148 48E)
- Perisher Village (36 24S 148 24E)
- Thredbo Village (36 30S 148 18E)
- Ingebyra Village (36 39S 148 30E)
- Dalgety Village (36 30S 148 50E)
- Nimmitabel Village (36 30S 149 17E)
- Bredbo Road River Bridge (35 58S 149 09E).

Vertical limits

ABV FL300.



Appendix C Protective Airspace

C.1 Definition

The Protective Airspace will be defined as follows:

The boundary of Snowy Mountains Wave Soaring Areas (including tolerances) is as follows:

Lateral limits

S 36°19'54" E 148°02'36", S 36°13'55" E 148°08'37"

then along the minor arc of a circle of 16.0 NM radius centred on

S 36°24'00" E 148°24'00" [PERISHER VILLAGE] to

S 36°10'02" E 148°14'18", S 36°00'06" E 148°30'37",

S 35°44'51" E 148°57'46"

then along the minor arc of a circle of 16.0 NM radius centred on

S 35°58'00" E 149°09'00" [BREDBO ROAD RIVER BRIDGE] to

S 35°54'48" E 149°28'18", S 36°26'47" E 149°36'26"

then along the minor arc of a circle of 16.0 NM radius centred on

S 36°30'00" E 149°17'00" [NIMMITABEL VILLAGE] to 36°46'01"

E 149°17'03", S 36°46'02" E 148°55'11",

S 36°53'00" E 148°39'42"

then along the minor arc of a circle of 16.0 NM radius centred on

S 36°39'00" E 148°30'00" [INGEBYRA VILLAGE] to

S 36°50'44" E 148°16'26", S 36°41'43" E 148°04'26"

then along the minor arc of a circle of 16.0 NM radius centred on

S 36°30'00" E 148°18'00" [THREDBO VILLAGE] to

S 36°19'54" E 148°02'36";

Vertical limits

Above FL245 to 3000 FT above the highest level expected to be used by gliders.

Period of activation

As requested or HJ.

Intense Glider Flying in Class E and G NOTAM

INTENSE GFY OPR WILL TAKE PLACE SOUTH OF AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY SE NEW SOUTH WALES – NE VICTORIA

LATERAL LIMITS:

WI AN AREA BOUNDED BY BREDBO VILLAGE (S35 57 E149 09) EASTBOURNE
VILLAGE (S36 10 E148 39)

GUTHEGA VILLAGE (S36 23 E148 22) THREDBO VILLAGE (S36 30 E148 18)
INGEBYRA VILLAGE (S36 39 E148 30)

DALGETY VILLAGE (S36 30 E148 50) NIMMITABEL VILLAGE (S36 30 E149 17)
BREDBO VILLAGE

GLIDERS CAN BE CONTACTED ON 122.7MHZ.