

Use of

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

for

Weed Control



DCQ has been trialling the use of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to support weed control activities occurring throughout the region. The UAV has been used to treat weed infestations which are in locations, or of a density, where other more conventional techniques are not appropriate.

The UAV is deployed from a vehicle and works either as a stand-alone control technique or in conjunction with ground teams and machinery. The primary purpose of the UAV is to deliver chemicals to target areas with a very high degree of accuracy and to do this quickly.

The UAV being trialled is a Yamaha Rmax type II G. It has a rotor diameter of 3.1 m, an overall length of 3.6m and has a 246cc motor which produces 15.4 kW of power. The maximum load is 28 kg. The machine is capable of distributing both granular and liquid chemicals.

Things to remember ...

- Operation of the aircraft requires an approved UAV Operator's Certificate issued by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) in conjunction with an Agricultural Aircraft Operator Licence
- Pilots must be licensed and hold a Pilot Chemical Rating Licence
- Operation of the aircraft is bound by the rules of the CASA approved company Operations Manual
- All chemicals must be applied in accordance with chemical label specifications
- Accurate records must be maintained about chemical use and location

For more information contact Desert Channels Group on 07 4658 0600 or info@dcq.org.au