

## What does 'Drone Disruption' mean for planning?

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### Background and Rationale

Over several decades technology has rapidly developed, increasing the efficiencies and productivity of businesses (Maceli and Burke 2016). In addition, historically the role of the planner has evolved over time, transforming the profession and focus (Bregmann 2013). Subsequently the conversations surrounding 'disruptive technologies' is a growing topic within the field of planning. Within other industries drone capabilities have assisted and subsequently altered mapmaking, advertising, delivery, law enforcement, environmental studies and agriculture (Luppicini and So 2016). The discussion surrounding technologies within the field of planning suggest an intrinsic link between the planning profession and the use of drones. This research will acknowledge the extent of which Perth Metropolitan LAGs are currently planning for the use of drones. Furthermore, investigate the how drones will affect the planning industry and role of the planner.

### Methods

A mixed-methods research approach has been employed for this topic. An initial Desktop study was used to complete a Policy Review and Media Analysis. The primary methods used included observational research by attending conferences and public lectures on a variety of topics including innovation and the future of the work place. In-depth interviews; ranging from aviation, planning, built environment professionals with knowledge in drones, freight and logistics, big data, smart cities and drone distribution centres.

### Results

The finding highlighted three promenade themes which are; regulations, social embrace and technical capabilities.

### Conclusion

The research reiterates a fundamental theme which was echoed in my original research on the role of the planner. To conclude I explore the idea behind how we can use this technology to make the world a better place, work smarter, design smarter and be better connected.