

Grantee: ORRCA Inc.

NWC Final Grant Report

Grant reporting period June 2020



Date Awarded: August 2018

Amount Awarded: AUS \$2,000

Purpose summary:

The purpose of this NWC grant was to support expenses incurred by ORRCA as follows: to purchase a drone for rescue and research of marine mammals.

Report completed by: Leesa Pratt

Title: ORRCA President

What were the key outcomes/benefits for wildlife or people that this grant made possible?

1. It has provided the ORRCA team with a new rescue resource for the trained rescue members to utilise in complicated and high-risk situations, be it on rocky headlands or out in the water.
2. It enables ORRCA to have safe eyes in the air when incidents are deemed to high risk to access
3. It allows ORRCA, with the permission of NPWS, to monitor and record strandings and possibly in the future, entangled animals.

Were there any challenges or delays to the project in this reporting period? If so, please describe how those were or will be addressed.

We had delays obtaining and purchasing the drone originally sourced due to it being out of stock and then unavailable for some time. The team then revisited options available and settled on the Mavic Pro Platinum.

What are the key achievements you have made from this grant?

1. New training opportunities for members
2. Upskilling members to Drone Pilots
3. Modernizing our rescue tool kit and opportunities for the future
4. Being able to review incidents quickly and safely from the air to enable the Rescue team to put appropriate action plans into place
5. It will also allow us to update NPWS more accurately in some incidents with data, images and recordings

Grant Spending: (if not applicable remove table)

Expenditure items	Amount \$	Need/Purpose
Drone Dji Mavic Pro Platinum Fly More Combo	1,899.00	Rescue resource
Sandisk Extreme Pro 128GB Micro SD Card	179.00	Rescue resource – recording images and video
Card reader still to be purchased	20.00	Processing photos off the camera
DJI Care Refresh Coverage for Drone	219.00	Insurance cover





Visual overview:

Please find included some photos of the drone and our newest Drone Pilot in training mode.



A note from the ORRCA Drone Pilot:

All ORRCA Drone Pilots will be required to abide by a core set of rules which are designed to make flying for any reason as safe as possible. Manned aircraft always have the right of way. When we purchased our drone, it was essential that our team have insurance and that they are trained by an experienced drone operator before taking hold of it/them and being custodian. As a valued part of our rescue resources, it is also important we ensure we make our members aware of the rules for flying a drone set by CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority). Undertaking flight training within a team environment is critical so that our pilots get to know the particular drone/s we have in our rescue fleet. Each drone is different!

Our NWC drone is located on the Northern Beaches of Sydney where we have a resident seal colony we monitor, plus local dolphin pods that are regularly harassed by jet ski riders. It was strategically located there as we have also had a couple of Humpback entanglements in that area over the past 2 years where beaches have nets. The rescue 'eyes in the sky' will also be of vital importance to ORRCA as we look for whales in the future which maybe entangled, injured or in distress offshore or in hard/unsafe locations.





Flight and safety training, its important to know the rules and how to navigate this resource before going over the ocean. There are many rules and regulations to take onboard when flying a drone.



There have been many volunteer hours spent training our Drone Pilot who is now the first ORRCA Drone Pilot within our organisation. She will now go on to train other active members in how to use the Drone with the view of having a small drone fleet in our rescue kit into the future.

