Whitianga Low Flying Area L260

In accordance with NZ CAA Rule 91.131 Mercury Bay Aero Club is the “using agency” for low flying area L260.

NZ CAR Part 91.131 Low flying zones

(a) A pilot must not operate an aircraft within a low flying zone designated under Part 71 —

(1) during the night or using NVIS; or

(2) during the day unless—

(i)

the pilot—

1. (A) is receiving dual flight instruction; or
2. (B) holds an instructor rating issued under Part 61; or
3. (C) is briefed on the boundaries of the low flying zone and the method of entry and exit from the low flying zone and is authorised for that flight by the holder of an instructor rating issued under Part 61; and

(ii) the pilot has been briefed by the using agency on the conditions of operation for flight within the low flying zone; and

(iii) the pilot complies with the conditions of operation for flight within the low flying zone; and

(iv) before entering the low flying zone, the pilot broadcasts on the appropriate VHF frequency details of the flight and the proposed duration in the low flying zone; and

(v) the pilot maintains a listening watch on the appropriate VHF frequency while in the low flying zone and broadcasts or reports on vacating the low flying zone.

RAANZ exposition

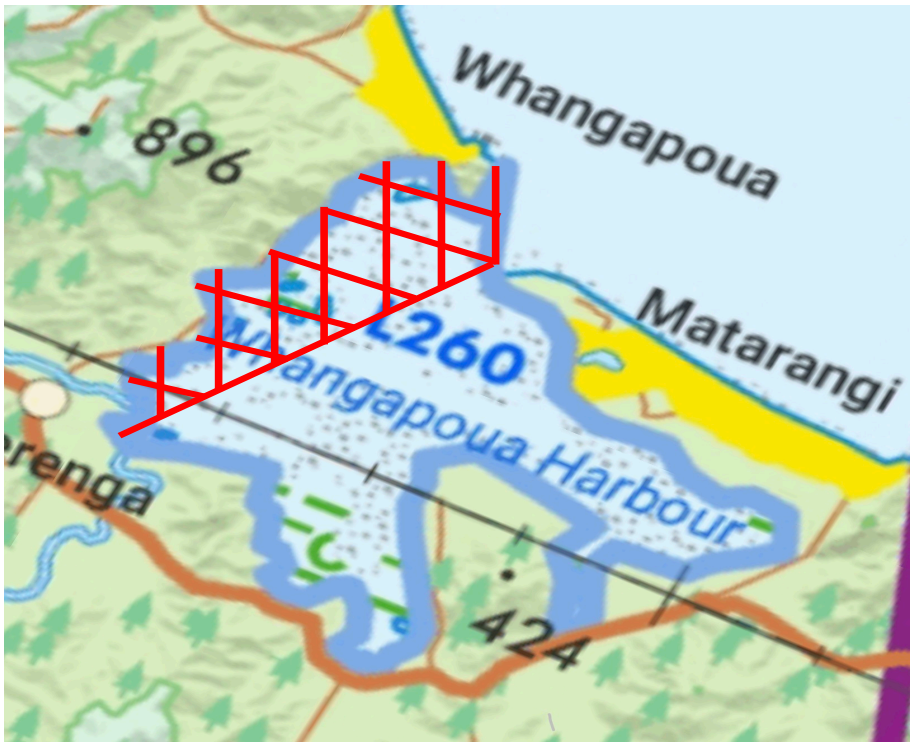
12.2 Low Flying and Low Flying Zone (LFZ) operations

- Low flying exercises must be dual flights under instruction with a Senior Instructor as pilot in command.
- For the purpose of practice and participation in microlight aircraft competition flying the pilot will be required to obtain an authorisation and briefing from a Senior Instructor prior to the flight. This authorisation may be given to operate to 200ft AGL under CAR Part 103.153.

NZ CAR Part 103.153 Minimum heights

Notwithstanding rule 91.311, a pilot of a microlight aircraft may operate a microlight aircraft below 500 feet AGL for the purpose of—

1. (1) microlight gyroplane circuit training, provided such operations are not carried out below 200 feet AGL; and
2. (2) practice for, and participation in, microlight aircraft competition flying, provided such operations are—
    1. (i) conducted with the knowledge and approval of a microlight organisation; and
    2. (ii) carried out in accordance with any conditions imposed by a microlight organisation; and
    3. (iii) not carried out below 200 feet AGL.

L260 is in the harbour and over the wetlands west of Matarangi. Before using this area we ask that instructors make contact with the club to gain approval to operate within the area. A briefing will be provided by an instructor highlighting the requirements for the use of the area and any further areas that need to be avoided. Being positioned so close to Matarangi there is the obvious consideration of noise from aircraft affecting the settlement. When using this area be considerate of the built up area and operate well clear.
Within L260 is a sensitive bird nesting area, see marked diagram below, and pilots are asked to remain clear of the this area when conducting low altitude operations. Please be aware that there is visual monitoring of aircraft within the area.

For approval to operate in L260 please contact **MBAC CFI Phil Welcome 021 628 053.**