

Seymour Whyte



FlyFreely has played a pivotal role in the rapid expansion of Seymour Whyte's national drone division

The construction engineering company launched its UAV program in 2016, initially only using the technology for videos and photos.

In recent years, chief remote pilot Tom Williams has successfully grown its fleet to carry out surveying.

"Our staff obtained their pilots licenses and remote operators certificate from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority," he said.

"But with that came all of the paperwork, and I was finding it difficult to convince our team out in the field to consistently fill them out.

"I was spending a significant portion of my days chasing up our pilots, when it could've been better spent elsewhere.

"It was then that FlyFreely was recommended to me."

Tom said the platform had been instrumental in ensuring all flying processes and procedures were followed.

Without them, there would have been the potential not only for crashes, but also fines from CASA.

Tom said the time, cost and risk savings had been immeasurable.

"The fact of the matter is, what was meant to be getting done previously wasn't getting done," he said.

"People weren't going through all of the right procedures, and then we introduced the FlyFreely software, and now they are."

"It has improved the accountability within our team out of sight," Tom said.

"They know that if they're going to fly a drone at Seymour Whyte, they're going to follow the reporting requirements to ensure our operations are as safe and efficient as possible."

Seymour Whyte's drone operations have doubled since it started working with the company.

It has also developed an induction training course, featuring a run-through of the platform, for all new pilots.

The software features a risk assessment checklist as standard, but Tom said the team had gone above and beyond to work with him to customise one that was specific to the business.

"I gave them a list of things I wanted to see included, that were specific to surveying, and they went away and did it," he said.

"That has been a really important and valuable asset for me, as it helps to mitigate a multitude of risks."

FlyFreely provides more than just technical support, having introduced Seymour Whyte to other providers when it fell outside their scope of work.

"They went above and beyond to help us get the job done," Tom said.