

# GLENCORE



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## 34

Mine Sites

## 275

Pilots

## 140

RPAS  
Airframes

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*FlyFreely has become the cornerstone of our RPAS Management System. I no longer must maintain a plethora of spreadsheets.*

*I have a single source of information and an excellent partner to work with*

*- Andrew Sutherland, Glencore, National CRP*

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## Background

Glencore Australia embarked on its commercial drone journey eight years ago. Starting with individual sites exploring sub-2kg drones, the company transitioned to a centralized system covering Coal, Copper, Zinc, Nickel, and Agricultural operations, spanning 34 sites in four states and encompassing 275 pilots with 140 RPAS airframes.

## Challenge

As Glencore scaled its drone operations, inconsistencies arose. Different sites had divergent approaches to RPAS management and lacked a standardized system. Some relied on paper manuals, others on Excel spreadsheets, and a few even used in-house solutions. This fragmented approach created complexities for the Chief Remote Pilot, making it nearly impossible to monitor operations and maintain CASA compliance.

## The Solution: FlyFreely Software

After an exhaustive search, Glencore partnered with FlyFreely. The FlyFreely team stood out with their upfront honesty and genuine interest in addressing Glencore's challenges.

### Key Features Beneficial to Glencore:

- **Offline Capability:** The Field App's functionality in areas with minimal network access revolutionized the way pilots recorded data.
- **Comprehensive Tracking:** From DJI Log captures to visual flight planning and maintenance tracking, every detail of a flight is documented.
- **Uniformity Across Sites:** Regardless of the site size, all sites now operate with the same checklists, schedules, and workflows.
- **Enhanced Training:** The dummy data feature streamlined training, with one site going live just 15 minutes post-training.

### Impact:

- **Operational Efficiency:** With FlyFreely, disparate systems were consolidated into one. Site rollouts reduced from several months to just two hours.
- **Safety & Compliance:** Pilots now have standardized checklists and JSA's aligned with CASA-approved operations manuals, leading to safer and more compliant operations.
- **Cultural Transformation:** Beyond technical advantages, FlyFreely facilitated a significant shift in pilot perception. Drones were no longer mere 'tools' but a critical component of Glencore's operations. Pilots now identified first as pilots, enhancing accountability and safety.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** The Chief Remote Pilot can now efficiently monitor and report on operations across the company.