



## Commonwealth Fact Sheet



### SPACE (LAUNCHES AND RETURNS) ACT 2018

*If your project involves conducting certain civil space activities either from Australia or by an Australian national outside Australia, or if it involves a high power rocket, you must comply with this Act.*

#### 1. What approvals do I need?

Certain civil space activities are prohibited unless appropriate approvals are obtained in accordance with the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*. The space activities that require approvals include:

- launching a space object from Australia
- returning a space object to Australia
- launching a space object overseas (for Australian nationals with an ownership interest)
- returning a space object overseas (for Australian nationals with an ownership interest)
- operating a launch facility in Australia
- conducting a high power rocket activity

The Act is supported by three sets of rules. The rules detail how applications for approvals work, including what information needs to be provided.

The Act is supported by three sets of rules. The rules explain application requirements for space and high power rocket activity approvals:

- [Space \(Launches and Returns\) \(General\) Rules 2019](#)
- [Space \(Launches and Returns\) \(High Power Rocket\) Rules 2019](#) (rules commenced on 30 June 2020)
- [Space \(Launches and Returns\) \(Insurance\) Rules 2019](#)

The rules refer to these documents:

- [Flight Safety Code](#)
- [Maximum Probable Loss Methodology](#)

You can read more about [space regulation](#).

#### 2. Who provides approvals?

The decision to approve an activity is made by the Minister responsible for the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* (or their delegate). Currently, this is the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology.

#### 3. How do I get Australian Government approval?

You will need to make an application to the Australian Space Agency (the Agency). The application is assessed by the Agency (some applications may require external technical advice). The Agency will then provide your application to the responsible Minister who makes a decision on whether to approve the activity.

#### 4. More information

##### Commonwealth

For more information on space activities in Australia, email [enquiries@space.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@space.gov.au)

##### Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Email: [mpfa@industry.gov.au](mailto:mpfa@industry.gov.au)