

# Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

## Information Sheet No. 4



### Department of Natural Resources and Mines Lease, Licence and Permit Holders

*This information sheet has been prepared for landholders in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area with any of the following Department of Natural Resources tenures:*

- a special lease
- pastoral holding
- stock grazing permit
- occupational licence
- term lease
- occupation permit
- permit to occupy

#### ***What is the Wet Tropics Management Plan about?***

The Plan commenced on 1 September 1998 and was designed to help protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Plan regulates only those activities within the World Heritage Area that have the potential to adversely affect the natural or cultural values of the Area. The activities of most concern are the destruction of native vegetation, and the disturbance of earth or watercourses. If your normal operations or maintenance activities involve such works, you will have to apply for a Wet Tropics permit so that the extent, severity and consequences of any impacts can be assessed.

#### ***Working together.....***

It is the intention of the Wet Tropics Management Authority to work together with landholders in the Area to help conserve its values. The Authority wishes to minimise any disruption to the activities of landholders in implementing the Plan, and to provide all necessary support and advice to assist landholders where a permit is required.

#### ***Activities you need to talk to us about:***

Grazing in areas outside rainforests is allowed and does not require a permit<sup>1</sup>. However, activities associated with grazing such as maintenance of fencelines, stockyards, access tracks and provision of watering facilities may need a permit, particularly if it involves clearing native vegetation or earthworks. Should a landholder have a legal right to carry out an activity which would otherwise be prohibited under the Plan, the Authority would seek to enter into a cooperative management agreement<sup>2</sup> with the landholder whereby the landholder may agree not to carry out the activity in return for some consideration (benefit) provided by the Authority, or where the Authority would allow the activity under certain conditions.

#### ***Activities that may not require a permit:***

Many normal maintenance activities carried out by landholders within the World Heritage Area, may be regarded as having only a minor and inconsequential impact<sup>3</sup>, and would not require a permit under the Plan. Similarly the maintenance of communications facilities or pipelines may not need a permit if this involves no more than minor and inconsequential effects on the site.

#### ***For further information contact:***

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<sup>1</sup> See also Information sheet No. 6 on Grazing in the WHA.

<sup>2</sup> See also Information sheet No. 16 on Cooperative Management Agreements.

<sup>3</sup> See also Information sheet No. 3. Activities such as maintaining an access road (trimming vegetation regrowth beside the track, removing fallen trees and branches, clearing drains and culverts without the use of machinery), and maintenance of vegetation around the residence, fence lines and gardens.