

# Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

## Information Sheet No. 5



### Freehold Land in the World Heritage Area

#### *How does the Wet Tropics Management Plan affect landholders with ordinary freehold title?*

Landholders with ordinary freehold title within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area are provided with special exemptions under the Plan. 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.

#### *You must apply for a permit if you are;*

- building a residence which has been authorised by the local council;
- clearing or building a pedestrian or vehicular access to a residence;
- establishing a domestic garden or orchard for non-commercial purposes; and
- extracting water for domestic use.

A Wet Tropics Permit is guaranteed to freehold title holders for “domestic” activities. However conditions may apply. For example a permit to build a vehicular access to a residence issued by the Authority could include a condition about where the access must be situated to cause the least impact on the Area’s integrity.

#### *No permit required:*

Landholders with freehold title are allowed to do certain activities without a Wet Tropics Permit including:

- driving on a lawful access road;
- disposing of waste on the land, but only if there is no regular waste removal service, the land is at least 20 km by road from the nearest general waste disposal facility (dump), and the waste is disposed of in a way that causes the least adverse environmental impact;
- keeping domestic pets or stock on private land, as long as they are prevented from entering rainforest; and
- any activities which promote the World Heritage values of the land.

These activities may also be carried out by others with the permission of the land holder for land in the Area.

Most minor domestic activities carried out by residents on their land within the World Heritage Area could be regarded as having only a minor and inconsequential impact<sup>1</sup>, and may not require a permit under the Plan.

Should a landholder have a legal right to carry out an activity which would otherwise be prohibited under the Plan, the Authority may negotiate 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.

#### *For further information contact:*

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<sup>1</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), and maintenance of vegetation around the residence, fencelines and gardens would normally be regarded as having a minor and inconsequential impact on the integrity of the Area.

<sup>2</sup> For further information about cooperative management agreements refer to Information sheet No 15.