



GUIDELINES FOR SEED COLLECTING IN THE WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE AREA

1. PURPOSE

This document has been adopted by the Wet Tropics Board as a “Guideline” under Section 62 of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* (the Plan). Its purpose is to enable the Authority, a permit entity under the Plan or a WTMA delegate to assess and determine applications to collect seed within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area under Section 33 (h) of the Plan.

2. APPLICATION OF THIS GUIDELINE

This guideline applies to the assessment of Wet Tropics permit applications for seed collecting undertaken by Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA), a permit entity under the Plan or a WTMA delegate. A reference to WTMA in this guideline is also a reference to a permit entity under the Plan or a WTMA delegate under the Act.

Under Section 33 (h) of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*, a permit may be issued to collect seeds in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. In any assessment of a permit application WTMA must consider the level of impact the proposed activity will have on the integrity of the World Heritage values. For any cases where the current level of knowledge of plant population dynamics does not allow an educated prediction to be made and/or an ‘open permit’ is requested, a permit may be issued subject to the following:

1. collection of seeds is only permitted if prudent and feasible alternative seed sources are unavailable outside the World Heritage Area;
2. Aboriginal people are consulted according to the existing protocols for consulting Aboriginal people about WT permit applications as provided in S. 62 Guideline # 3.
3. collection of seed from any plant species within the World Heritage Area must be conducted in accordance with the *QPWS Code of Practice - Taking and use of Protected Plants 1995*; (or successors to that code);
4. except for scientific research purposes, the collection of seed is prohibited from within National Parks declared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
5. annual collection returns must be submitted to the Authority. These returns must state the precise location of each collection area (described by AMG Coordinates), species collected and amount (by weight) of seed taken;
6. at any time during the currency of the permit, the Authority may in writing, impose restrictions on the collection of plant material from specific locations or for specific plant species should it form a reasonable opinion that further collection in that location of that species will negatively impact on World Heritage values.

3. APPROVAL

Board Meeting Number 39
17 - 18 August 2000