

Wet Tropics Management Plan review:

Proposed changes to road classifications

Road changes

For the purposes of the World Heritage Management Plan 1998, anyone can bushwalk or cycle on any road in the World Heritage area. (N.B. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service do not allow horse riding in most National Parks (exceptions Herberton Range and Bump Track and Tinaroo Range on a trial basis)

The Plan's zoning maps currently display five categories of roads in the World Heritage Area.

These are as follows:

- *State-controlled road*: roads which form part of the State's road network.
- *Community access road*: significant roads for local community transport.
- *Presentation road*: roads which provide opportunities for "presentation" of the World Heritage Area (no permit required for non-motorized vehicles)
- *Presentation (restricted) road*: presentation roads where a permit is required for use of a motor vehicle.
- *Management road*: roads to provide access for management and research purposes. General public use of these roads is not considered appropriate.

To summarise reasons for the proposed changes to the road classifications in the World Heritage Area, one or more of the following apply:

- Change in classification according to current use as a walking or biking track (usually due to the road having becoming unfit for vehicle use because maintenance costs are too high or there is little demand e.g. Culpa Road, Bump Track and East Black Mt Road).
- The existing or potential use of a road for tourism and recreation (often as part of a potential loop track e.g. Drovers Track/East Hills Track).

The Authority considers any environmental impacts on roads can be more efficiently managed on a 'seasonal closure' basis rather than the application of a permit system.

It is proposed to change the classification of most 'presentation (restricted)' roads to 'presentation' roads' and allow motorised vehicles on presentation roads unless -

1. the Authority has placed a notice on the road stating that motor vehicles must not be operated on the road without a permit; or
2. the road has been closed for seasonal reasons.

This is consistent with the Greentape reduction reform agenda.

The Authority is also proposing to allow access to Traditional Owners for cultural management purposes.

Road name	Current class	Proposed class	Reason for change
Bump Track	Presentation (restricted)	No classification	In use as an NPSR walking and mountain biking track (preferred to trail bikes and other motorised use). Still available for horse riding.
East Black Mountain Road	Presentation (restricted)	No classification	Generally impassable to 4WD vehicles. In use as a walking and mountain bike track (preferred to trail bikes and other motorised use).
Lamb Range Track	Presentation (restricted)	No classification	Road closed at bridge. In use as a walking track.
Drovers Track	Not shown on maps	Presentation	Currently in use a road loop as advertised by NPSR. Creates loop with East Hills track
H Road	Management	No classification	Proposed use as a walking and mountain biking track
Culpa Road	Presentation Restricted	No classification	No longer in use due to safety issues and extent of deterioration
Red Road	Local access	No classification	A section of this road not trafficable (propose to substitute Nitchiga Creek Road as alternative access)
Nitchiga Creek Road	Management	Presentation	Seasonal access through to Red Road
Kennedy Falls Track	Presentation (restricted)	No classification	No motor vehicle use requirement identified
Benhams Track/Valley Road	Management	Presentation Restricted	Tourism opportunities subject to permit and road management
Bluewater Road (part)	Presentation (restricted)	No classification	No motor vehicle use requirement identified; proposal to close road beyond gate at old forestry camp visitor site.