

SECTION 62 PERMIT ASSESSMENT

Guideline 1

MINOR AND INCONSEQUENTIAL IMPACT

DEFINITION

Any physical process that does not increase the probability that World Heritage attributes at the local scale will decline, and does not reduce the capacity of any area to sustain natural processes. Natural processes refer to the maintenance of both physical and biological processes and to the preservation of visual and cultural values.

Consideration must be given to:

- impacts normally associated with the type of activity proposed
- impacts normally associated with the type of site to be used
- whether all potential impacts are manageable within acceptable limits
- whether the level of certainty or prediction of any impact is sufficiently high to be confident
- about not encountering unforeseen problems
- whether the potential impacts are likely to have cumulative, long-term/short-term or reversible/irreversible implications

Checklist (Screening)	Yes	No
Will the proposed activity occur within Zone A or Zone B		

Checklist (Screening)	Yes	No
Will the proposed activity occur within part of the protected area estate/agreement?		
national park		
conservation park		
resources reserve		
nature refuge		
co-ordinated conservation area		
wilderness area		
land subject to native title determination		
cooperative management agreement area		

Checklist (Screening)	Yes	No
Will the proposed activity occur within an environmentally significant area?		
a) Geomorphological characteristics:		
could it cause alterations to wetland/swamp/mangrove/lake or estuary ecosystems?		
could it affect coastlines and/or dunes?		
could rivers or streams be affected?		
could mountain summit areas be affected?		
b) Ecological systems:		
is it a known or likely habitat for threatened species of flora and/or fauna?		
is it a known or likely habitat for rare/restricted species of flora and/or fauna?		
is it in a recognised/postulated centre of local endemism?		
could threatened regional ecosystem be impacted?		
could unlogged/undisturbed forests be affected?		
could important remnant vegetation be affected?		
could wildlife corridors be affected?		
c) Vulnerability to major natural or induced hazards?		
is it in a flood prone area?		
is it on steep slopes?		
is it in a bushfire prone area and is there an increased risk of fire?		

Checklist (Screening)	Yes	No
Potential impacts of proposed activity		
a) Physical Factors		
will it involve significant land disturbance?		
could it result in erosion, subsidence and instability?		
could it result in alteration of water courses/drainage patterns?		
could it have effects on quantity/quality/availability of surface or groundwater?		
is there any likelihood of the activity promoting salinisation or activating acid sulphate soils?		
b) Biological Factors		
could there be a threat to biodiversity?		
could it involve or result in clearing/burning/modification of vegetation?		
could it result in the displacement of fauna or create a barrier to faunal movements?		
does it involve the use of environmentally persistent pesticides/herbicides/fertilisers?		
c) Land Use		
is it in an area used for a special purpose (defence/communication/etc)?		
could it curtail alternative beneficial uses of area?		
could it place increased demands on natural resources in local short supply?		
could it significantly affect the livelihood of existing users?		
could extent of native title rights and interests be affected?		
d) Infrastructure		
could it result in increased demand on services/infrastructure (roads, power, water, etc)?		

Checklist (Screening)	Yes	No
Potential impacts of proposed activity		
e) Cultural Heritage (Indigenous or Non-Indigenous)		
could there be any adverse effects on Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the area?		
could the integrity of any particular cultural heritage site or area be damaged or desecrated?		
could it adversely affect other sites, areas or items of cultural or historic significance?		
f) Aesthetics		
is it in an area of aesthetic or high scenic value?		
is it in an area, or within the viewshed, of high visitor use?		
could it result in an obstruction of views?		
could it degrade the scenic amenity?		
g) Water		
could it cause deterioration to water quality, quantity or availability?		
is there any possibility of accidental spills into a water course?		
h) Wastes		
could it involve the disposal of significant volumes of sewage/other waste?		
could it result in the disposal of significant volumes of spoil/overburden?		
i) Hazards		
could there be a hazard due to use/storage/disposal/transportation of substances?		
j) Noise/Illumination Factors		
could there be a significant increase in noise and/or vibration?		
could there be a significant increase in unnatural night-time illumination?		
k) Degree of Public Interest		
could proposal lead to controversy/concern in community?		
could the amenity/values/lifestyle of the local community be degraded?		

Consider the potential for cumulative environmental impacts on the Area

Checklist (Screening)	Yes	No
Presence of Policy Frameworks (e.g. Protection Through Partnerships or other Statutory Approval Processes)		
is proposed activity consistent with such frameworks/processes?		
do other statutory approval processes exist to adequately assess and manage the proposed activity's impacts?		
has it been through any assessment processes by other agencies or jurisdictions?		

26.(1) A person must not, without a reasonable excuse, carry out any of the following activities in the wet tropics area, except so far as the activity is lawfully carried out under division 3 or 4

Checklist	Yes	No
a) Does the activity involve the planting, cultivating, propagating, killing or disposing of an undesirable plant?		
b) Does the activity involve bringing an undesirable animal, or allowing an undesirable animal to stray or escape into a rainforest; or onto land other than private land?		
c) Does the activity involve mining, fossicking, eductor dredging or destructive mineral exploration?		
d) Does the activity involve excavating, grading, quarrying or otherwise interfering with earth?		
e) Does the activity involve interfering with a watercourse by extracting or diverting water, damming the watercourse or carrying out another activity interfering with its natural flow?		
f) Does the activity involve the building or maintaining of a structure?		
g) Does the activity involve the building or maintaining of a road?		
h) Does the activity involve the disposing of waste, other than in an appropriate receptacle?		
i) Does the activity involve operating a general waste disposal facility or a regulated waste disposal facility?		
j) Does the activity involve operating a motor vehicle?		
k) Does the activity involve operating a motorised boat?		
l) Does the activity involve flying a motorised aircraft less than 1,000 ft above the area, other than when taking off or landing; or in carrying out an activity for fire safety, prevention or control; or for the Commonwealth - in carrying out defence activities; or for a police officer - in carrying out the officer's duties?		
m) Does the activity involve landing an aircraft at a place other than in a natural clearing or on water?		

APPROVAL

Board Meeting Number 31
13 November 1998

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