

SECTION 62 PERMIT ASSESSMENT

Guideline 8

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON 'PRESENTATION (RESTRICTED)' AND 'MANAGEMENT' ROADS 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 the impact of motor vehicle use of 'Presentation (Restricted)' and 'Management' Roads under a specified management regime.

2. Application of this Guideline

This guideline applies to the assessment of Wet Tropics permit applications for motor vehicle use of 'Presentation (Restricted)' and 'Management' roads undertaken by Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA), a permit entity under the Plan or a WTMA delegate. 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(j) (i) & (ii) of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*, a permit must be issued to operate a motor vehicle on a 'Presentation (Restricted)' or 'Management' road. However, under Section 28 of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*, activities which are minor and inconsequential are "allowed" activities.

WTMA will consider that operating a motor vehicle on any 'Presentation (Restricted)' roads listed in Schedule 1 (Seasonal Use Roads) will have no more than minor and inconsequential impact under the provisions of Section 28 of the Plan provided that:

1. the road is gated;
2. the gates are closed to:
 - a. stop vehicles using the road at times considered by WTMA to be inappropriate, such as during wet weather; and
 - b. stop vehicles using the road when it is in a poor trafficable state;
3. the road is maintained and patrolled to the satisfaction of WTMA.

WTMA will assess applications and issue permits for operating a motor vehicle on any 'Presentation (Restricted)' roads listed in Schedule 2 (Limited Access Roads) against the criteria or carrying capacity set out in the schedule (yet to be finalised) provided that:

1. the road is gated;
2. the roads are closed and no permits are to be issued:
 - a. at times considered by WTMA to be inappropriate, such as during wet weather;
 - b. when the road is in a poor trafficable state;
 - c. if WTMA considers road use is negatively impacting on World Heritage values;
3. the road is maintained and patrolled to the satisfaction of WTMA.

WTMA will consider that operating a motor vehicle on any 'Management' roads listed in Schedule 3 will cause no more than minor and inconsequential impact under the provisions of Section 28 of the Plan provided that:

1. the road is gated;
2. the gate is locked at all times;
3. a key is issued to users of management roads;
4. use of the road is for the purpose of conservation management, scientific research or maintenance of community services infrastructure as provided by Section 33(j)(ii) of the Plan.
5. the road is not used:
 - at times considered by WTMA to be inappropriate, such as during wet weather or when the road is in a poor trafficable state;
 - if WTMA considers road use is negatively impacting on World Heritage values;
6. the road is maintained and patrolled to the satisfaction of WTMA.

3. Approval

Board Meeting Number 42

August 2001

And as amended Board Meeting 69

September 2007

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SCHEDULE 1

Table 1 - Seasonal Use Roads

Gate Open : use allowed without a permit

Gate Closed : use prohibited

Road Name	Extent (Road Section)	Reserve Name
Roaring Meg Track*		TR165
Roaring Meg Track (north)*		TR165
CREB Track*		TR165
Cape Tribulation Carpark Road		Cape Tribulation
Gillies Lookout Track		Gadgarra and Little Mulgrave Forest Reserves
Shoteel Ck Road (Clohesy River Road)	to Figtree visitor site	Dinden National Park
Davies Ck Road (Lamb Range Track)	to trail head	Dinden National Park
Bartle Frere Track		Wooroonooran National Park
E Hill Track (Hall's Falls Track)		Herberton Range National Park
Malaan Road		Wooroonooran National Park
K Tree Road		Wooroonooran National Park
Bora Ground Track		Wooroonooran National Park
Sutties Gap Road		Wooroonooran National Park
Bluewater Range Road	to forestry hut visitor node	Paluma Range National Park
Maple Creek Road		Wooroonooran National Park
Cochable Creek Road		Tully Gorge National Park

* Note that these roads are being reviewed in the Kuku Yalanji ILUA process currently in progress.

SCHEDULE 2

Table 2 - Limited Access Roads (Permits required)

ROAD NAME	CONSIDERATIONS	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA/CARRYING CAPACITY*
Mt Lewis Road	<p>Ecological considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refugial area • centre of evolution/endemism; • contact zone between the Mt Lewis block and Atherton Tableland block thus high species richness as cross zone (especially fauna). eg large number of plants just found in this area - patch of Bunya Pine (very old rainforest). • high habitat & species diversity • Phytophthora found in the area • Arboreal species sensitive to disturbance <p>Recreational considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area assessed as providing remote visitor experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational carrying capacity assessed as 9 vehicles per day (including 2 commercial vehicles) • On any one day there may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 5 daily vehicle permits ➢ 7 weekly permits ➢ 5 monthly permits ➢ 2 Commercial Activity Permits
Shoteel Creek Road (dam wall to Fig Tree visitor site)	<p>Ecological considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area unique being a watershed for 5 catchments; • high altitudes and geographic location provide for a very high biological richness; • majority of arboreals can be found here <p>Recreational considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area assessed as providing remote visitor experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational carrying capacity assessed as 12 vehicles per day (including 4 commercial vehicles) • On any one day there may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 6 daily vehicle permits ➢ 8 weekly permits ➢ 6 monthly permits ➢ 4 Commercial Activity Permits
Tinaroo Range Network Mt Edith Road / Kairi Creek Road	<p>Ecological considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitat diversity (open woodland, tall open forest, high quality, highly developed rainforest, high altitude) • ecotonal flora/fauna • refugial area, with a number of R&T's including the northern bettong • Mt Edith area has very high concentration of ground ferns & mosses on granites which are susceptible to trampling - visitor use needs to be controlled <p>Recreational considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area assessed as providing remote visitor experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational carrying capacity assessed as 25 vehicles per day (including 10 commercial vehicles) • On any one day there may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 12 daily vehicle permits ➢ 16 weekly permits ➢ 13 monthly permits ➢ 10 Commercial Activity Permits

ROAD NAME	CONSIDERATIONS	ASSESSMENT CRITERIA/CARRYING CAPACITY*
<i>CULPA ROAD</i>	<p>Ecological considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Phytophthora</i> outbreak suspected <p>Recreational considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area assessed as providing remote visitor experience <p>Special considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tully River bridge closed to traffic - requires repair/replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational carrying capacity assessed as 9 vehicles per day (including 0 commercial vehicles) • On any one day there may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ 7 daily vehicle permits ➢ 10 weekly permits ➢ 8 monthly permits
<i>BUMP TRACK</i>	<p>Recreational considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high level of mountain bike, horse riding (part of National Horse Trail) and walker use <p>Special considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not in trafficable condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motor vehicle use permits to be issued
BLACK MOUNTAIN (EAST) ROAD	<p>Special Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not in trafficable condition due to washouts & bridge damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motor vehicle use permits to be issued
CARRON CREEK / KENNEDY FALLS TRACKS	<p>Special considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not in trafficable condition due to washouts/lack of maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motor vehicle use permits to be issued
JACOBSON'S TRACK	<p>Special considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not in trafficable condition due to washouts/lack of maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motor vehicle use permits to be issued
H ROAD TO 1.4KM PT FROM TULLY GORGE ROAD	<p>Recreational considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no presentation/recreation value (remainder of H Road is classified as "management" road) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No motor vehicle use permits to be issued

- Assessment criteria/carrying capacity for roads requiring a Wet Tropics permit determined at Board meeting 58, November 2004. Carrying capacities subject to review.

NB: Weekly and monthly permits may cease to be available due to a new EPA booking system in 2006. Daily vehicle permit numbers would then become the carrying capacity less the number of commercial operator

SCHEDULE 3

Table 3 – Management Roads

All roads designated as management roads as depicted on Wet Tropics Plan Zoning Maps
(NB a permit is required for use consistent with WTM Plan S.33(j)(ii))