

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 1

General Information

Do I Need to Apply for a Wet Tropics Permit?

The *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* commenced operation on 1 September 1998.

The purpose of the Plan is to help protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WHA).

The Plan regulates activities that have a potential to adversely impact on World Heritage values or the enjoyment of those values.

This Guide will help you to:

- determine whether you need to apply for a Wet Tropics Permit, and if so,
- how to make an application, and
- where to get further information

Plan Applies Inside the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area

- You do not need a Wet Tropics Permit for activities conducted outside of the WHA.
- Maps of the World Heritage boundary are available for viewing at the Authority, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM), the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and local government offices throughout the region or you can phone the contact numbers given below.

How do I know if my activities require a Wet Tropics Permit?

If you intend to undertake one or more of these activities then you may need to apply for a permit.

Disturbance to native plants, waterways and earth:

- clearing of native vegetation
- disturbance to watercourses (eg dams, water extraction) and
- earthworks (eg excavation, quarries, mining, fossicking)

Introduced animals and environmental weeds: eg dogs, cats, cattle, Singapore daisy, Siam weed

- domestic animals are allowed on private land within the Area as long as they are prevented from entering rainforest
- grazing is allowed outside rainforests, but activities associated with grazing (maintenance of fences, dams, access roads, water access points) may require a permit

Waste Disposal

Special provisions are made for private land holders with respect to waste disposal. However in most other circumstances, waste disposal is prohibited.

Building and maintenance of structures and roads

- freehold land owners are guaranteed a permit for building an approved residence, access road and establishing a housegarden, as well as drawing water for domestic use (conditions may apply)
- the Authority is only interested in maintenance works where the activity is having more than a minor and inconsequential impact on World Heritage values.

Operation of motorised vehicles, boats and aircraft

- most roads currently open to the public will remain so
- unless otherwise indicated, all gravel and sealed roads are open to the public
- a few forestry roads will require a Wet Tropics permit for vehicle access but access can be applied for the same way as for Forestry permits to traverse
- there are some restrictions on motor boat use on waters above tidal influence, but no Wet Tropics restrictions on dams or Lake Barrine
- commercial aircraft: flying an aircraft in the WHA less than 1000 ft above ground level will require a permit eg scenic flights.

You do not need a permit for the following

- protection of life or urgent protection of property
- transporting an animal (eg dog) through the Area
- activities with minor and inconsequential impact on World Heritage values and integrity eg low impact maintenance along private access roads or around residences (if in doubt, enquire at the offices listed at the end of this guide)¹

You do not need a permit if you are a private land holder (including leaseholds) who is:

- maintaining existing lawful firebreaks
- burning vegetation (other than in a rainforest)
- keeping undesirable animals on private land (other than rainforest)
- grazing animals (other than in rainforest)
- additional special provisions and allowances can apply for freehold land holders. Refer 'Land Holders with Ordinary Title'- Information Sheet No. 5 for further information.

If your activities are limited to these common sense exceptions or special circumstances you do not need to apply for a Wet Tropics Permit and do not need to read any further.

What if it looks like I might need to apply for a permit? What do I do next?

New proposals which include activities already regulated by QPWS or DNR

If your proposal requires completion of a QPWS or DNR application, and the proposal includes an activity described on page 4, you should ask for an application form that includes the Wet Tropics Permit supplement. The supplement is to ensure you do not have to go through two separate application and assessment processes.

Development proposals regulated by local government under the Integrated Planning Act.

¹ See also Information sheet No 3

- Development approval processes will be assimilated under the new *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, but this arrangement does not apply yet
- Until this time you will need to fill out a WT Permit Application Form as well as the required local government forms.

Permits to traverse

- Permits to traverse roads which have restricted access under the Plan are being administered under existing permit arrangements operated by DNRM.

Proposals which only include activities regulated by the Plan

- Where the proposed activity is not also regulated by DNR or QPWS, a Wet Tropics Permit Application form should be completed.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION:

Where to obtain application forms

Application forms can be obtained at the contact points referred to below.

Lodging your application

At any of the contact points referred to below.

Further Information:

Information Sheets

The following information sheets may be obtained at the contact points below:

- General information
- Permit Application and Assessment
- Information about 'Minor & Inconsequential Activities'
- DNR Lease, Licence and Permit Holders
- Freehold Land in the World Heritage Area
- Grazing in the World Heritage Area
- Beekeeping in the World Heritage Area
- Flying over the World Heritage Area
- Commercial Tour Operations
- Mining, Quarrying and Fossicking
- Seed Collecting in the World Heritage Area
- Undesirable Animals and Plants
- Information for Local Government
- Development and Maintenance of Infrastructure
- Information on Aboriginal interests

Who to Contact

Wet Tropics Management Authority

15 Lake Street
PO Box 2050
Cairns QLD 4870

Ph: (07) 4052 0555

Fax: (07) 4031 1364

Department of Natural Resources & Mines

5B Sheridan Street
PO Box 937
Cairns QLD 4870

Ph: 4039 8431

Fax: 4052 3145

DNRM Main St Atherton

Ph: (07) 4091 1844

DNRM South Johnstone

Ph: (07) 4064 3900

DNRM Ripple Creek, Halifax Road via Ingham

Ph: (07) 4777 2822

DNRM Cardwell

Ph: (07) 4066 8627

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Far North Region
Ground Floor 5B Sheridan Street
PO Box 2066
Cairns QLD 4870

Ph: (07) 4046 6601

Fax: (07) 4046 6604

QPWS Mossman

Ph: (07) 4098 2188

QPWS Lake Eacham

Ph: (07) 4095 3768

QPWS Innisfail

Ph: (07) 4061 4291

QPWS Ingham

Ph: (07) 4777 9672

Wet Tropics Management Authority
Ground Floor Cairns Port Authority
Cnr Grafton and Hartley Streets, Cairns 4870
Ph: 4241 0500 Email: wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au
ABN: 50 264 108 752