

## **Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998**

### ***Information Sheet No. 6***

#### **Grazing in the World Heritage Area**

##### ***What is the Wet Tropics Management Plan about?***

The Plan commenced on 1 September 1998 and was designed to help protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. The Plan regulates only those activities within the World Heritage Area that have the potential to adversely affect the natural or cultural values of the Area<sup>1</sup>. The activities of most concern are the destruction of native vegetation, and the disturbance of earth or watercourses.

##### ***How does the Plan affect Graziers?***

Grazing is allowed without a permit<sup>2</sup> in areas outside of rainforests, but other activities associated with grazing which involve the destruction of forest products (native plants), the disturbance of soil or interference with a watercourse within the Area may require a Wet Tropics permit. Such activities might include the maintenance of structures (fencelines, dams, stockyards), maintenance of access roads and tracks, spraying for weeds and flying commercial aircraft below 1,000 ft (e.g. helicopter mustering).

##### ***What will it cost me?***

There will be no Wet Tropics permit fee charged for existing activities/operations. However for any new proposals which require formal environmental impact assessment and subsequent detailed and complex assessment by Authority staff, an assessment fee may be charged on a cost recovery basis.

##### ***What will I have to do differently under a Wet Tropics permit?***

In most cases existing DNRM permit/lease conditions will continue to apply. However, where a Wet Tropics permit is also required, additional conditions may be set where certain activities have the potential to harm World Heritage values. The Wet Tropics permit will be issued for the remaining term of the existing DNRM permit/lease, or for a period of up to twelve months, whichever is sooner. During this time the permit/lease will be evaluated by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, the Department of Primary Industries and the Authority to determine any adverse impacts on the integrity of the Area, and to review the conditions.

##### ***Working together...***

It is the intention of the Wet Tropics Management Authority to develop a code of practice for grazing in the Area in consultation with grazier representatives and other Government regulating bodies to streamline the permit application and lease renewal processes. The code will be designed to become

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<sup>1</sup>The natural values for which the Wet Tropics Area was listed as of World Heritage significance include evidence of major stages of the earth's evolutionary history, ongoing geological and biological processes, superlative natural phenomena or areas of natural beauty, and important habitats for conserving biodiversity. The Area's cultural values are also considered in determining appropriate management.

<sup>2</sup> However permit regulations under other legislation still apply.

part of the standard conditions for a Wet Tropics permit. The main objective of the code will be to establish agreed management practices which are practical and which provide a basis for meeting the conservation objectives of World Heritage management together with the needs of graziers. The knowledge and expertise of land holders/graziers is well recognised, and the effective input of graziers into the development of the code of practice will be vital to its success.

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