

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 7

Beekeeping 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 Area¹. The activities of most concern are the destruction of native vegetation, and the disturbance of earth or watercourses.

How does the Plan affect Beekeepers?

Private Land: Beekeeping in the World Heritage Area (the Area) is allowed without a permit on private land within the Area in areas outside of rainforests.

Public Land: Beekeeping on public lands within zone C (land with disturbances associated with community infrastructure) and zone D (land with developed facilities for visitors) in the Area will require a Wet Tropics permit in conjunction with the usual Department of Primary Industry licence, and site permit. Permits will only be issued to apiarists registered under the *Apiaries Act 1982*. No additional Wet Tropics fee will be charged for a Wet Tropics permit.

What restrictions will apply under a Wet Tropics permit?

Conditions attached to such permits will be designed to minimise any adverse impacts of beekeeping activities within the Area. Such activities include the maintenance of clearings and fire breaks around hives, and access to sites along 'presentation restricted' category roads.

Working together.

It is the intention of the Wet Tropics Management Authority to work with industry representatives and apiarists to develop a code of practice for beekeeping in the Area to streamline the permit application and renewal processes. The code will be designed to become 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 provide a basis for meeting the conservation objectives of World Heritage management together with the needs of apiarists.

Apiarists' knowledge of the land and the seasonal cycles of the forests will be valuable inputs to the development of the code of practice.

¹ 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.

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