

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 8

Flying Over 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.

Why is low flying regulated in the World Heritage Area?

Low flying or sightseeing aircraft have the potential to compromise certain World Heritage values, such as the wilderness qualities of certain areas. For this reason flying an aircraft for commercial purposes in the World Heritage Area less than 1000 ft above the ground level, eg. scenic flights, photography is prohibited (the exception to this is when taking off or landing or if flying below 1000 ft is reasonably necessary for safety purposes). However, the Authority may issue a Permit under the Wet Tropics Management Plan in special circumstances.

Landing an aircraft at a place other than in a natural clearing, on water or a place purposely prepared for landing (airstrip or helipad) is prohibited within the World Heritage Area. However landing an aircraft for emergency purposes is allowed in all zones.

If your existing aviation operations involve conducting scenic or commercial charter flights above the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area at altitudes less than 1000 ft you will need to apply for a Wet Tropics Permit.

Where do I get a permit?

If you need a commercial activity permit from the Queensland parks and Wildlife Services for your operations, you may be issued with a Wet Tropics permit by these agencies at the same time at no extra charge.

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.

For further information contact:

Your nearest QPWS office

OR

Wet Tropics Management Authority
15 Lake Street
PO Box 2050
CAIRNS QLD 4870

Ph: (07) 40520555

Fax: (07) 40311364

Website: www.wettropics.gov.au

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