

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 9

Commercial Tour Operations

Does the Wet Tropics Management Plan regulate or control commercial tour operators?

In short the answer is NO.

The Plan does however regulate or control some activities that may form a component of a commercial tour. For example there are some restrictions on use of motorised vehicles, boats and aircraft inside the World Heritage Area (WHA).

I already have a permit from the QPWS - why do I need a Wet Tropics permit?

In most cases QPWS will issue your Wet Tropics permit with their permit, and you will only have to fill out one permit application. A Wet Tropics permit will only be needed for a small number of Forestry roads which have high presentation and educational values, but which also traverse environmentally sensitive areas.

Roads play an important role in management of the WHA providing access for visitors to enjoy the area and access for activities such as research, education and management purposes. They can however have harmful impacts on the Area by fragmenting wildlife habitat, leading to road kills, contributing to erosion, pollution and spread of weeds, diseases and feral animals.

Most roads currently open to the public will remain open. Unless otherwise indicated, all gravel and sealed roads are open to the public.

What about tourism activities involving other motorised transport in the Wet Tropics?

There are restrictions on motorised boat use on waters above tidal influence, but not dams or Lake Barrine, subject to existing provisions under other laws.

Low flying or sightseeing aircraft have the potential to compromise certain WHA values, such as the wilderness qualities of certain areas. For this reason flying an aircraft in the World Heritage Area less than 1000 ft above the ground level for commercial purposes, eg. scenic flights, photography, requires a Wet Tropics Permit. The exception to this is when taking off or landing or if flying below 1000 ft is reasonably necessary for safety purposes.

If your Commercial Tour involves any of the above activities you need to apply for a Wet Tropics permit in addition to the Queensland Parks.

For further information contact:

Your nearest QPWS Office

OR

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CAIRNS QLD 4870

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