

Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

Information Sheet No. 10

Mining, Quarrying and Fossicking

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.

Is mining, quarrying, fossicking and eductor dredging allowed within the Wet Tropic World Heritage Area (WHA)?

In most situations the answer is NO.

Fossicking, eductor dredging and destructive mine exploration are not allowed in the WHA under the Wet Tropics Management Plan.

Under what circumstances may mining and quarrying be allowed?

The exception to this is, if at the Plan commencement date (1 September 1998) you hold a lawful licence, lease or permit issued under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to undertake mining activities, a Wet Tropic permit is not required. Quarrying may be carried out under a Wet Tropics permit in zone C (land on which or adjacent to which there is disturbances associated with community infrastructure) and D (land which has or may have developed facilities for visitors) within the Area.

Mining legislation is currently being revised and further information should be sought.

For further information contact:

Your nearest Department of Natural Resources & Mines Office or Department of Mines and Energy

OR

Wet Tropics Management Authority
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PO Box 2050
CAIRNS QLD 4870

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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.