

Information sheet

Visitor management

Group activities

Introduction

What is a group activity?

A group activity is an organised use of a part of a Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed area in a way that may interfere with general public use of the area.

A group activity does not include a traditional activity of a community or group of Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders having traditional, customary or historical links with an area under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom relating to the area.

What are QPWS managed areas?

'QPWS managed areas' comprise the following areas:

- Recreation Areas under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 1988* (where the underlying land tenure is state forest or protected area (state land));
- state forests and other lands managed under the *Forestry Act 1959*;
- protected areas (state land) under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, including national parks (scientific), national parks, national parks (recovery), conservation parks and resources reserves.

What is an 'organised use'?

An organised use is use of a QPWS managed area by a group of persons who come together to use the area for a common purpose. Examples of organised uses include:

- concerts, rallies or public meetings,
- religious activities,
- weddings,
- educational activities,
- sporting events,
- motorised or non-motorised competitive events (non-commercial).

However, organised activities by groups that are normally undertaken as part of existing general public use of a particular site, such as camping in a camping area and picnicking at a day-use area, are generally not an 'organised use' of a QPWS managed area, except where the scale of the activity is such that it would grossly interfere with existing general public use of an area.

Procedures

What should I do if I'm planning an organised use?

Organised uses will often constitute a group activity. Persons planning an organised use of a QPWS managed area should contact their local QPWS office to discuss their proposal.

How are applications assessed?

The QPWS will first determine if the proposed use outlined in an application is an organised use that may interfere with general public use of the relevant area. Applications are then assessed against the following criteria to gauge whether likely impacts will be within acceptable limits:

- Natural and cultural resources and values,
- Other QPWS managed area uses,
- Management interests,
- Equity.

The QPWS may only approve group activities in a protected area that are consistent with the management principles for the particular class of protected area and any approved management plan for the area.

Key terms and conditions

- Construction or installation of infrastructure associated with the conduct of a group activity is only allowed where it is specifically authorised under the conditions of a group activity permit, or through another authority.
- All persons and organisations conducting a group activity in a QPWS managed area will be required to indemnify QPWS against any claim in relation to the death or injury of a person or the loss of or damage to property caused by their act or default.
- The issue of group activity permits authorising certain activities in a QPWS managed area may also be subject to the applicant holding appropriate public liability insurance. A security bond or financial assurance may also be required.

Offence and penalty

It is an offence to conduct a group activity in a QPWS managed area without a permit to do so. A penalty of up to \$3750 applies.

How can I apply for a permit?

An application form can be obtained by contacting the EPA on 1300 368 326.

In making an application, applicants are responsible for lodging a completed application form (with attachments where necessary). Required information includes:

- the names of all parks and the sites within each of those areas where the applicant wishes to conduct activities;
- a detailed outline of all intended activities within each area and site. Additional pages may need to be attached to the application to provide this information.

Further information

<p>Licences and Permits Co-ordination Unit Level 7, 160 Ann Street Brisbane Qld 4000 PO Box 155 Brisbane Albert Street Queensland 4002</p> <p>Enquiries: 1300 368 326 Facsimile: (07) 3115 9600 E-mail address: eco.access@epa.qld.gov.au</p>	<p>Southern Region Level 7, 160 Ann Street Brisbane Qld 4000 PO Box 155 Brisbane Albert Street Queensland 4002</p> <p>Enquiries: 07 3225 1076 Facsimile: 07 3225 1856</p>
<p>Central Regional Centre 61 Yeppoon Road North Rockhampton PO Box 3130 Rockhampton Shopping Fair Qld 4701</p> <p>Enquiries: 07 4936 0511</p>	<p>Northern Regional Centre Level 1, 5B Sheridan Street PO Box 2066 Cairns Qld 4870</p> <p>Enquiries: 07 4046 6600</p>

For further reference

Operational policy – Group activity permit

Information sheet – Group activity permit fees

Information sheet – Public liability insurance requirements

Operational policy – Public liability insurance, Indemnity, Release and Discharge requirements

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