

Operational policy

Visitor Management

Soliciting donations or information in QPWS managed areas

Operational policies provide a framework for consistent application and interpretation of legislation and for the management of non-legislative matters by the Department of Environment and Science, (incorporating the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service). Operational policies are not intended to be applied inflexibly in all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require a modified application of policy.

Policy issue

This policy outlines the circumstances where a permit is required for soliciting donations or information on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed areas.

Background

Visitors to QPWS managed areas should expect that QPWS will protect their opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the natural surroundings without disturbance or interference from other park users. A potential source of disturbance or interference may involve persons making requests for donations or for the provision of information in response to questions- for example researchers or commercial tour operators may wish to collect information from users of QPWS managed areas.

In circumstances such as these, a permit to solicit donations or information is required in protected areas (State land) and State forests. A marine parks permit may be required under State or Commonwealth zoning plans; however this requirement varies between marine parks and zones. Where a permit is required in a marine park, this policy will apply.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

'solicit' - means to request.

'donation'- means a gift

'person' - means an individual and also a corporation.

'QPWS managed areas' include the following areas:

- Protected areas, including national parks and regional parks but excluding nature refuges, dedicated under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- Recreation areas managed under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*;
- State forests, other than State (Plantation) forests, declared under *Forestry Act 1959*

Policy

A permit to solicit donations or information may be issued when:

- the proposed activity is likely to have minimal impact on visitor use and enjoyment;
- the manner of soliciting is unobtrusive;
- public participation is voluntary; and

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- the outcome of the proposed activity is relevant to QPWS in managing the area or in managing protected areas, State forests or recreation areas in general.

The questioning of visitors directly or by using a written questionnaire sheet requires a permit. Other research/scientific-related activities may also require a scientific purposes permit, an educational purposes permit or other authority, depending on the proposed activity.

In order to be approved, an application involving any psychological or sociological research must be accompanied by an evaluation and endorsement by a professional ethics committee.

An application from an incorporated organisation must be accompanied by a letter signed by an office bearer authorising the person named to act on its behalf.

Conditions for the granting of a permit or approval may address matters such as times, locations, manner, extent, advance notice to QPWS staff, and supplying reports or findings to QPWS.

A condition of any permit or approval issued in the name of an incorporated organisation will state which members can undertake the activity and their form/s of identification and/or dress.

Public liability insurance cover is not required for activities conducted under a permit for soliciting donations or information.

A permit can be issued for a maximum term of one year.

Persons planning to solicit donations or information on a QPWS managed area should contact QPWS (please see contact details under '**Enquiries**' page 2) to discuss their proposal.

Reference material

Operational policy: Insurance and indemnity requirements for QPWS authorities

Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care, it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Science should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

Approved By

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Signature

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Date

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