

Operational policy

Visitor Management

Approval to bring flowers into a QPWS managed area

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. Operational policies are not intended to be applied inflexibly in all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require a modified application of policy.

Purpose

This operational policy details the circumstances which allow visitors to bring flowers into Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed areas.

Background

At times, visitors to parks request permission to bring flowers into a QPWS managed area, usually related to celebratory or ceremonial events such as weddings. Such events may also occur in close proximity to QPWS managed areas, for example a beach adjacent to a national park.

Legislation relevant to the management of QPWS areas places restrictions on what can and cannot be brought into an area, including flowers which are defined as part of a plant.

This legislation includes:

- s73A & s73E of the *Forestry Act 1959*
- s127 of the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006
- s123 of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*

Some impacts resulting from bringing plants onto such areas, that are not naturally occurring, may include the introduction or spread of:

- pest plants
- insects, insect eggs, larvae and other invertebrates
- pathogens which may cause or further spread disease.

Definitions

'plant' (*Nature Conservation Act 1992*) means a member of the plant or fungus kingdom (whether alive or dead, standing or fallen) and includes:

- a) any—
 - i. flowering plant
 - ii. cycad
 - iii. conifer
 - iv. fern or fern ally

- v. moss
- vi. liverwort
- vii. alga
- viii. fungus
- ix. lichen

b) the whole or any part of the flowers, seeds or genetic or reproductive material of a plant.

plant (*Forestry Act 1959*) means-

- (a) any member of the plant or fungus kingdom (whether alive, dead, standing or fallen); or
- (b) the whole or any part of the flowers, seeds or genetic or reproductive material of a plant or fungus.

'plant' (*Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*) includes part of a plant.

'reproductive material' refers to any part of a plant or pathogen that is capable of reproduction. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- seed
- spores
- roots, bulbs, rhizomes, stolons, tubers, or parts thereof
- whole plants or fungi.

'QPWS managed areas' include:

- recreation areas declared under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*
- state forests and forest reserves managed under the *Forestry Act 1959*
- protected areas (State land) dedicated under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, including national parks and regional parks.

Policy statement

Approval will not be given to bring flowers onto island protected areas.

Approval will not be given to bring plant material which includes reproductive material onto any QPWS managed area. This does not include leaves and stems which form part of a floral arrangement.

Approval will not be given to bring in any part of a declared plant listed in the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003.

Flowers may only be brought onto other QPWS managed areas with the written approval of the chief executive, provided it is in accordance with any management plan or management principles for that area. The approval will include information listing specific conditions relating to the use, type and disposal of flowers.

Procedures

As part of the assessment process the applicant should provide a list of the species of plant and flowers proposed to be brought onto a QPWS managed area.

All flowers and plant material brought into a QPWS managed area must be removed and disposed of outside the QPWS managed area.

Reference materials

Forestry Act 1959

Forestry Regulation 2015

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006

Recreation Areas Management Act 2006

Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003

Disclaimer

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Approved By

Natalie Ormsby

Signature

30 September 2013

Date

A/Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Enquiries:
Assessments and Approvals
Email: parkaccess@des.qld.gov.au