

Steps in the Application for Research Endorsement process

A trial to support Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples' involvement in research on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas within the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.

Nature Conservation Act 1992 • Forestry Act 1959 • Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993

Pre-Application:

The application for research endorsement form (ARE) should be completed as early as possible. Opportunities for co-design and involvement of Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples are negotiated at this point.

The researcher should:

Engage with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples for the area to build relationships, and strategies to support greater involvement in research.

Note: The ARE form provides examples of best practice research with Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples.

Make contact with the Department of Environment and Science (DES) to find out:

- Information required for an application to be submitted (i.e. all application form fields completed and all supporting material attached including the completed ARE).
- Any additional information needed by the delegate to decide an application.

Rainforest Aboriginal People may:

Provide feedback and advice to the researcher.

For example; research priorities, potential risks including sensitive cultural areas or totem species.

Endorse the research project.

May include signed ARE, a letter of support or documented agreement for involvement in the research project and any proposed conditions to manage risks to cultural values, rights and interests.

Not endorse the research project.

This will be considered during the permit assessment. DES may contact the relevant Rainforest Aboriginal People for further information and grounds for the decision.

STEP

Application & Assessment:

A completed application is made to DES using the relevant form www.qld.gov.au/environment/parks/permits/science-education.

DES will ensure that the application is valid and undertake an assessment. Once an application is accepted it is assessed and must be decided within the statutory timeframe (40 business days)

DES also undertakes a validation process for granting the permit (future act) under the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.

The researcher should:

Submit a completed application that:

- Contains enough information to address and satisfy legislative requirements and decide the application.
- Include a completed ARE and any supporting material (e.g. letter of support).

Note:

- The information in the ARE about cultural values, rights and interests relevant to the proposed research is critical to the assessment of the application.
- Failure to provide a completed ARE could significantly delay the assessment process. Relevant information may be sought through a formal information request to ensure impacts on cultural values, rights and interests are mitigated.
- A permit may not be granted if the requested information is not provided or it cannot be demonstrated that reasonable efforts were made to seek this information.

See FAQ for more guidance on reasonable effort.

STEP

Decision:

DES must decide an application in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and the *Forestry Act 1959*. This research protocol trial means that information in the ARE will be considered under the relevant assessment criteria.

An application can be **approved with conditions**, **refused** or deemed **withdrawn**.



- **Conditions** to mitigate impacts on cultural values, rights and interests may include provision of seats in a research vehicle when on QPWS managed areas; notification of entry onto a protected area; avoidance of the take of totem species; and plain English progress reports.
- Standard permit conditions will require researchers to notify RAP of the commencement of the research and the requirement to involve RAP during the research.

See *FAQ* for examples of standard conditions.



- If a permit is **granted** and a third party (Rainforest Aboriginal People) objects, they may apply for a judicial review of the process undertaken to make the decision.
- If a permit is **refused** or approved with conditions the applicant may appeal the decision through administrative review provisions.

STEPS

During Research project:

DES will monitor compliance with permit conditions for the duration of the Permit. Permit conditions are not enforceable after the expiry of the permit.

The researcher should:

Commence research fieldwork and engage with Rainforest Aboriginal People in a way that complies with:

- Completed ARE.
- Relevant permit conditions.
- Any other agreements negotiated independently with Rainforest Aboriginal People (e.g. research agreement, fee for service agreement).

Rainforest Aboriginal people should:

Engage with researchers and support a research project as agreed.

We need your Feedback:

The Application for Research Endorsement process is part of a 12 Month Trial. To make sure we get the process right we want to hear from Rainforest Aboriginal Peoples and the Researchers.

- Do you have any suggestions that might improve the application for research endorsement process?
- Did you encounter any challenges during the endorsement process?
- What were some of the benefits of the endorsement process?

Please contact the Wet Tropics Management Authority (07) 4241 0500



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