

Approval to bring flowers onto EPA managed areas

Operational policies provide a framework for consistent application and interpretation of legislation and for the management of non-legislative matters by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 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 will identify circumstances which allow visitors to bring flowers onto EPA managed areas.

Background

Park visitors intermittently seek permission to bring flowers onto an EPA managed area, usually related to celebratory or ceremonial events such as weddings. Such events may also occur in close proximity to EPA managed areas, for example a beach adjacent to a national park.

Legislation relating to the management of EPA areas restricts what can and cannot be brought into an area. This restriction includes flowers, which are defined as part of a plant. Examples of legislation include:

- s17 of the *Forestry Regulation 1998* – a person must not, other than under a permit or other authority, take a plant into a state forest unless the plant is food
- s127 of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006* (NC(PAM) Reg) – a person must not bring a plant into a protected area unless it is for food, firewood, or they have the chief executive's written approval
- s123 of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* – a person must not take a plant into a recreation area unless it is for consumption by humans as food, or they have the chief executive's written approval, or they have a regulatory notice, authority or regulation.

Some impacts resulting from bringing non-native plants and/or non-indigenous plants (i.e. native plants not naturally occurring) onto such areas, may include:

- introduction or spread of weeds
- introduction of insects, insect eggs, larvae and other invertebrates
- introduction of pathogens which may cause or further spread disease.

Definitions

Plant, under the *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.

EPA managed areas include the following areas:

- recreation areas managed under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*
- State forests and forest reserves managed under the *Forestry Act 1959*
- protected areas, including national parks (scientific), national parks, national parks (recovery), conservation parks and resources reserves managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- Brisbane Forest Park managed under the *Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977*
- marine parks managed under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

Policy statement

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

Flowers may be brought onto other EPA managed areas under an approval issued by EPA, provided it is in accordance with any management plan or management principles for that area. The approval will contain an information notice listing specific conditions relating to the use, type and disposal of flowers.

As a general rule, visitors are only to bring flowers into certain EPA managed areas where weddings are permitted to take place under a Group Activity Permit.

Reference materials

Forestry Act 1959

Forestry Regulation 1998

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006

Recreation Areas Management Act 2006

Operational policy: Request for burials and scattering of cremation ashes

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Disclaimer

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Approved by

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Signature

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Date

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