

## Introduction

### What is a 'group activity'?

A group activity is an organised use of a part of a 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?

For the purposes of this document QPWS-managed areas include the following areas:

- State forests or recreation areas (**forest recreation areas**) and other lands managed under the *Forestry Act 1959*;
- Protected areas (State land) managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* – national parks, national park (scientific), national park (Aboriginal land), national park (Torres Strait Islander land), national park (recovery), conservation park and resources reserve;
- Recreation areas (**RAM areas**) managed under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* where the underlying land tenure is state forest or protected area (state land).

For the purpose of this policy QPWS managed areas do not include marine parks under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

### 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; and
- sporting events.

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 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 the Ecoaccess Customer Service Unit.

### **How are applications assessed?**

In determining whether a group activity permit is required, the proposed use or activity will first be assessed to establish whether it will be conducted in a way that may interfere with the general public use of an area.

A use or activity may interfere with the general public use of an area if it:

- is likely to significantly constrain or adversely affect other uses that could reasonably be expected to be undertaken by other people in that area at that time; or
- is likely to significantly limit the availability of facilities for use by other people, taking into account the likely demand for use of those facilities at that time.

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**

- Building or installing 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 (at the time of publishing).

### **How can I apply for a permit?**

An application form can be obtained by contacting the EPA at the address below.

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; and
- 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><b>Ecoaccess Customer Service Unit</b> PO Box 15155 CITY EAST QLD 4002</p> <p>Ph 1300 368 326 Fx 07 3115 9600 E-mail address: <a href="mailto:eco.access@epa.qld.gov.au">eco.access@epa.qld.gov.au</a></p>	
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