

# Procedural guide

## Natural Resource Management

### Australian Defence Force activities on QPWS managed areas

*Procedural guides further define complex decision-making processes or requirements of the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI), incorporating the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships. Procedural guides provide guidance and information to assist staff in the completion of specific tasks or in making certain judgments.*

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## 1. Purpose

This procedural guide applies to the conduct of the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) activities on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed areas. The document outlines procedures for **both QPWS staff and ADF personnel** in relation to:

- what authorities are required for ADF activities
- where, how and what types of ADF activities can be undertaken
- which ADF activities require an Organised Event Permit, and which require notification
- how QPWS staff can request access through ADF Training Areas
- the administrative and approval procedures.

## 2. Scope

This guide applies to:

- All ADF personnel including full time, reserve or cadets, of the Australian Army, Navy or Air Force, conducting any activities on QPWS managed areas, regardless of the activity type, or whether uniforms or insignia are worn.
- Any international defence force personnel conducting any activities on QPWS managed areas with the ADF, regardless of the activity type, or whether uniforms or insignia are worn.
- Defence contractors conducting any activities on QPWS managed areas on behalf of the ADF.
- All ADF activities on terrestrial and marine QPWS managed areas.

This guide **does not apply to:**

- ADF lease areas within QPWS managed areas.
- Marine Park waters managed jointly or wholly by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA).
- National parks (scientific), special wildlife reserves, nature refuges and coordinated conservation areas declared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
- Social or recreational activity undertaken by members of the ADF on QPWS managed areas.

## 3. How to use this procedural guide:

### 3.1 ADF personnel

1. Check definitions (section 4).
2. Check which QPWS managed areas your proposed activities will affect. For terrestrial QPWS managed areas including Great Barrier Reef island national parks, note the estate name. For marine QPWS managed areas, note whether proposed activities will be conducted within state marine parks only or jointly managed commonwealth and state waters. State marine parks are:
  - Moreton Bay Marine Park
  - Great Sandy Marine Park
  - Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park - state only managed areas include the intertidal area, rivers, streams and inlets generally. For activities below mean low water, joint management is led by the GBRMPA.

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3. For marine QPWS managed areas, note the marine park zone types involved (e.g. general use zone) and any designated areas (e.g. go slow areas).
4. Follow the procedure for notification or Organised Event Permit application (section 5).

### 3.2 QPWS officers

1. Check definitions (section 4).
2. Read additional information (section 8).
3. Follow QPWS procedures (section 6).

## 4. Definitions

Table 1. Definitions, as defined for the purposes of this procedural guide only.

<b>Defence Area (DA)</b>	ADF defence training area declared over an area of land, sea or airspace under the Defence Regulation 2016 (Commonwealth) for a defence purpose.
<b>DOTAM</b>	Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management
<b>Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC)</b>	An ADF document outlining activity details, identified risks to the environment and mitigation measures
<b>Live ammunition</b>	Contains an energetic chemical composition (propellant, explosive, etc.) and includes both <b>live ball ammunition</b> and <b>blank ammunition</b>
<b>Live ball ammunition</b>	Fires a projectile
<b>Live blank (blank) ammunition</b>	Simulates noise, does not fire a projectile but is classified as live ammunition
<b>Marine QPWS managed areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marine parks declared under the <i>Marine Parks Act 2004</i></li> <li>- Moreton Bay Marine Park (MBMP), Great Sandy Marine Park (GSMP), Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park (GBRCMP) (State only)</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Defence Training Areas (NDTA)</b>	Lands and waterways not owned or leased by the Commonwealth Department of Defence, including terrestrial and marine QPWS managed areas
<b>Organised event permit (OEP)</b>	<p>A type of activity permit under the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Forestry Act 1959</i></li> <li>- <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>.</li> <li>- <i>Recreation Areas Management Act 2006</i></li> </ul> <p>See <b>Appendix 1</b> for a list of legislation references.</p>
<b>QPWS managed areas</b>	Includes <b>terrestrial QPWS managed areas</b> and <b>marine QPWS managed areas</b> , as defined in this table
<b>Terrestrial QPWS managed areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recreation areas declared under the <i>Recreation Areas Management Act 2006</i>, including intertidal areas.</li> <li>- State forests and timber reserves declared under the <i>Forestry Act 1959</i>.</li> <li>- The following protected areas declared under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>; national parks; national parks (Aboriginal land); national parks (Torres Strait Islander land); national parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land); indigenous joint management areas; conservation parks; and resources reserves.</li> </ul>

## 5. ADF Procedure

### 5.1 ADF Environmental Clearance Certificate and bookings

- Training activities in QPWS managed areas are managed within the ADF by the Qld Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management (DOTAM).
- All ADF units proposing training activities on Non-Defence Training Areas (NDTA), must:
  - have a Training Area Safety and Management Information System (TASMIS) booking
  - have an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) approval from the relevant Defence Environment and Sustainability Manager (ESM) in Brisbane or Townsville
  - coordinate their activity through DOTAM as follows
    - NDTA's south of the Tropic of Capricorn book through DOTAM in Brisbane
      - phone **0409 887 926**
    - NDTA's north of the Tropic of Capricorn book through DOTAM in Townsville
      - phone **0409 742 935**.
- The ADF requires this **procedure to be followed for any activity on an NDTA** even if it is exempt from a QPWS Authority.

### 5.2 ADF activities within QPWS managed areas

- If a proposed ADF activity includes both terrestrial QPWS managed areas **and** marine QPWS managed areas, both procedures must be followed separately due to differences in legislation. Please note on the application or notification if the proposed activities will involve both water and land-based activities.
- If proposed ADF activities may involve the use of weapons, pyrotechnics (in emergency and safety situations), and/or defence vehicles, hardware and infrastructure, refer to section 8.
- The duty of care under Queensland's cultural heritage acts sits with the land user (see **Appendix 1** for legislation references). This process sits alongside a native title assessment which is undertaken for all OEP applications. This means that for activities not requiring an OEP, consideration still needs to be given to protect First Nations cultural heritage, noting that activities involving ground disturbance have a greater chance of causing harm.
- Taking of wildlife (flora and fauna) is prohibited on QPWS managed areas.
- Additional QPWS permissions (for example, a camping permit) may be required, see section 9.
- Table 2 details the ADF activities undertaken within QPWS managed areas **subject to QPWS assessment upon application or notification**.

**Table 2. ADF training and support activities within QPWS managed areas**

Activity	Description	QPWS permit requirements
<b>Training without weapons or replica weapons</b>	Units undertaking activities without weapons or replica weapons.  For example: climbing, canoeing, orienteering, navigation and bushwalking, camping/bush camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities on terrestrial QPWS managed areas require notification and may need an OEP depending on initial assessment by QPWS.</li> <li>• Activities within marine QPWS managed areas may require notification, and are subject to</li> </ul>

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		conditions that may be placed on the activity
<b>Training with blank ammunition and/or weapons</b>	Units undertaking combat exercises using blank ammunition and/or vehicles as part of the training activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities on terrestrial QPWS managed areas require an OEP.</li> <li>• Activities within marine QPWS managed areas may require notification and are subject to conditions that may be placed on the activity</li> </ul>
<b>Specialist training with blank ammunition and/or weapons</b>	Specialist units undertaking combat exercises using blank ammunition	
<b>QPWS infrastructure and emergency support activities</b>	1. ADF volunteer/cadet activities involving park management work for the purposes of training	• QPWS (regional management unit) written approvals or contractual arrangements
	2. Activities including infrastructure construction or demolition and pest management	• QPWS (regional management unit) written approvals or contractual arrangements
	3. Providing support in disaster management and state emergencies	• Exempt from QPWS permit requirements

### 5.3 ADF activities on terrestrial QPWS managed areas

#### 5.3.1 Training without weapons or replica weapons

- An online notification should be submitted at least 15 business days before the date of the proposed activities. This will allow QPWS staff to assess the activity and respond to the notification indicating whether an OEP is required.
- An ADF activity without weapons or replica weapons may require an OEP. This depends on several factors including, but not limited to:
  - restricts the reasonable use of any area by other people
  - requires temporary exclusive use
  - disturbs soil, vegetation or animals in any area
  - includes construction of temporary infrastructure
  - includes camping at sites or capacities unavailable through the online booking system
  - includes high-use areas (e.g. island national parks, iconic parks and areas near urban centres)
  - includes areas of high biosecurity risk (e.g. island national parks)
  - includes areas of joint management or co-operative management with First Nations partners, such as Cape York region, K'gari (Fraser Island), Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) and Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island)

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- includes recreation areas (K'gari (Fraser Island), Green Island, Mulgumpin (Moreton Island), Bribie Island, Inskip Peninsula, Cooloola and Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) Recreation Areas)
- includes the use of vehicles as part of the training activity (beyond transport to a QPWS managed area)
- likely to have detrimental impacts to environmental or cultural values, or affect other area users.
- Notification can be lodged at [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au) – search: organised event notification, navigate to the organised events web page, and then follow the link for the ADF activities form.
- The assessment of an OEP application takes up to 40 business days. OEP applications can be submitted through Online Services at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) – search: 'online services'.
- Please note, if the ADF suspects that the proposed activity is likely to require an OEP, then an OEP application can be submitted directly without first notifying QPWS.
- For activities and locations previously requiring an OEP, submit an OEP application at least 40 business days before the date of proposed activities through Online Services at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) – search: 'online services'.
- OEP applications and notifications require sufficient information for QPWS assessment, see section 7 for OEP application requirements. Any notification requirements will be detailed in the online notification form.
- An OEP application is assessed in accordance with relevant legislative criteria for the proposed area, see **Appendix 1** for more legislation references.
- Notifications or OEP applications cannot be submitted without prior authorisation by the relevant DOTAM. A valid Training Area Safety Management and Information System (TASMIS) booking number is required by the QPWS online notification form.

### 5.3.2 Training with weapons, blank ammunition or specialist training

- Submit an OEP application at least 40 business days before the date of proposed activities through Online Services at [www.business.qld.gov.au](http://www.business.qld.gov.au) – search: online services.
- OEP applications require sufficient information for QPWS assessment, see section 7 for requirements.

### 5.3.3 Site inspections

- Where the same terrestrial QPWS locations are intended to be used for 12 months or greater, the exercise commander, DOTAM staff and Defence Environment and Sustainability Managers will participate in joint inspections of the permit area before and after the exercise to review any potential impacts, or requirements for site remediation. For permits that are granted with a shorter term, the site inspections are discretionary.

## 5.4 ADF activities within marine QPWS managed areas

- All ADF activities proposed in Moreton Bay Marine Park require notification.
- For Great Sandy Marine Park and Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, only ADF activities that would otherwise require a permission under the relevant zoning plan, require notification. For more information on which activities require notification in each marine park zone type, visit [www.legislation.qld.gov.au](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au) and search: zoning plan<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this procedural guide the ADF notification requirements outlined in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan (Commonwealth) and which apply to the same zone types in the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park also apply to Estuarine Conservation Zones in the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park.

- If notification is required, an online notification must be submitted at least 15 business days before the date of the proposed activities to allow QPWS staff to respond. Notifications are to be lodged via the ADF activities notification page via [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au) – search: organised event notification, navigate to the organised events web page, and then follow the link for the ADF activities form.
- Notifications require sufficient information for QPWS assessment. Any notification requirements will be detailed in the online notification form.
- A single notification can inform QPWS of multiple training events over a given period or planned regular activities.
- For activities below mean low water within the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, joint management is led by GBRMPA. Notification requirements, procedures and any directions/conditions will be managed through GBRMPA, who will then liaise with QPWS. For contact details and more information on GBRMPA policies visit [www.gbrmpa.gov.au](http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au).
- QPWS (and GBRMPA) may place conditions on the activity where necessary to manage potential cultural heritage and environmental impacts and conflict with other users to ensure the activity is consistent with the objectives of the marine park zones.
- Activities proposed within intertidal areas of marine QPWS managed areas and recreation areas, declared under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*, will need to follow notification and OEP application processes. For more information go to [www.parks.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.parks.des.qld.gov.au) and search: recreation areas.
- If QPWS requires conditions to be placed on the activities, the ADF will be contacted within 15 business days of notification with further details.

## 6. QPWS Procedure

### 6.1 General

- QPWS officers may request further information after receiving a notification or application from the ADF. Minimum information requirements for OEP applications are listed in section 7, notification requirements are listed online.
- All ADF activities proposed on QPWS managed areas are required by the ADF to have an approved Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC). An ECC can provide a range of useful information for the QPWS assessing officer, such as details of the activities, equipment, fire and biosecurity considerations, and site maps. The ECC may list mitigating measures and conditions applied to the activity through an ADF internal process.
- When listed only on the ECC, conditions are not enforceable by QPWS officers. Any relevant conditions listed on the ECC may be considered for inclusion in QPWS conditions. Alternatively, a QPWS condition can be included in an OEP or response to notification (for marine QPWS managed areas) stating that activities must be conducted in accordance with an ADF Environmental Clearance Certificate, and a copy of the ECC must be provided on request. ECC conditions are unlikely to change after ADF approval.
- QPWS officers must respond to a notification for activities on QPWS managed areas within 15 business days.



## 6.2 Native title and cultural heritage

- Under specific joint or cooperative management arrangements with First Nations partners, the department may be required to consult with First Nations people in order to understand the potential impact of a proposed activity on their cultural rights and Country.
- There is a requirement to ensure that any approval is granted in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993*. Cultural heritage protection under Queensland's cultural heritage acts (CH Acts) will also be considered as part of the assessment and decisions related to notifications and permit applications. See **Appendix 1** for more legislation references.
- QPWS assessing officers should note if there is a potential for ADF activities to involve ground disturbance, there is a greater chance that the activity may harm First Nations cultural heritage.
- While the duty of care under the CH Acts sits with the land user, the department also has a responsibility to protect cultural heritage values under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (as cultural resources) and is to be considered as part of the assessment and decision making process.

## 6.3 Terrestrial QPWS managed areas

### 6.3.1 Notifications

- Copies of all online notifications submitted by the ADF are distributed by the online form to:
  - DOTAM
  - email address of person notifying
  - Parkaccess (QPWS)
  - contact emails for the regions of the QPWS managed areas selected.
- If the activity does not involve carrying weapons, consider the relevant legislation according to the tenure of the area(s) to determine whether an OEP is required to conduct the activity proposed.
- The Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017 defines an organised event as 'a non-commercial activity involving the organised use of a part of a protected area that is likely to have a detrimental impact on the part, or affect the use of the area by other persons, having regard to' the nature of the activity. A list of further legislation references can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- If the activity is likely to have no detrimental impacts on the natural and cultural values of the area and the activities are unlikely to affect the use of the area by other persons, it can be concluded that an OEP is not required.
- If the activity is likely to have detrimental impacts on the natural and cultural values of the area or affect the use of the area by other persons, it can be concluded that an OEP is required.
- A list of factors that may trigger the requirement for an OEP application is provided to the ADF in section 5.3.1.
- QPWS is to provide the ADF with a response to the notifying email address within 15 business days indicating whether an OEP application is required (and provide links to Online Services) or confirm that the proposed activity can proceed without an OEP.
- Online notifications for activities across terrestrial QPWS managed areas and state marine parks will generate notification emails to all regions with areas selected. However, it is recommended all regions involved communicate with each other to provide a consistent and coordinated response to the ADF.

### 6.3.2 Organised event permits

- The Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017, *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*, and *Forestry Act 1959* provide directions and guidelines for the chief executive when considering and deciding an application for a relevant authority or permission for any proposed ADF activity on terrestrial QPWS managed areas.
- All proposed ADF activities on QPWS managed areas must be assessed to ensure activities:
  - avoid or minimise any impact on cultural heritage and natural resources
  - align with the management principles or tenure objectives of QPWS managed areas
  - meet provisions of any management plan or other management statement
  - do not cause undue disturbance to other park users.

### 6.4 Marine QPWS managed areas

- State and commonwealth marine park zoning plans:
  - provide for use and entry of marine parks for ADF activities without the need for a permit
  - require the ADF to provide prior notification of all activities (MBMP only) or activities that would otherwise require a permission under the relevant zoning plans (GSMP and GBRCMP)
  - enable QPWS and/or GBRMMPA to apply conditions/directions to ADF activities
- A selection of legislation references is available in **Appendix 1**. When searching the zoning plans for relevant sections, search: without permission after notification.
- Unlike notifications for terrestrial QPWS managed areas, a decision on whether an OEP is necessary is not required.
- For ADF activities in joint waters (state and commonwealth), GBRMMPA notification requirements must be complied with. GBRMMPA will then liaise with QPWS for consideration under the GBR Coast Marine Park state zoning plan.
- For ADF activities wholly within the intertidal area, rivers, streams and inlets generally of the GBRCMP, QPWS will lead the review of any notifications received. The reviewing QPWS officer should provide a response to the notifying email address within 15 business days indicating whether the chief executive (or delegate) wishes to apply conditions to the proposed activities.
- It is up to the QPWS reviewing officer to ensure any notification is sufficiently considered and potential impacts mitigated to achieve the purpose of the *Marine Parks Act 2004* and the objects of the relevant marine park zones and designated areas.
- Commonwealth and state marine park legislation are silent on matters to which the chief executive must have regard, when reviewing ADF notifications. However, to guide the review of the ADF activity notification, the QPWS officer can apply the same matters that the chief executive must and may have regard to in considering an application for a permission.

## 7. Required information OEP applications

All OEP applications for an ADF activity **must include the following**:

- a completed online organised event application and relevant fee
- certificate of insurance

- an ECC issued by the Defence ESM
- a statement as to why a QPWS managed area is required as opposed to any alternative sites
- any map details of route and activities as appropriate, including any walking or vehicles use off established tracks
- a statement identifying biosecurity risks specific for the activity and location and mitigation strategies.
- Details if the following are to be used or undertaken (the information may be provided on the ECC):
  - weapons (even if not discharged or replica)
  - blank ammunition
  - construction of temporary structures and other infrastructure
  - digging, excavating (e.g. waste disposal, fox holes) or earthworks
  - animals, such as horses or scent detection dogs
  - any other specialised type of equipment.
  - The number and type of aircraft or Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), refer to **Appendix 2**.
  - The number, type and carrying capacity of vehicles and/or vessels, refer to **Appendix 2** (e.g. 2 x 10 person Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV), 1 x 20 person Unimog, etc.).

## 8. Additional information

### 8.1 Use of weapons and ammunition

- See section 4 for clarification of terms.

#### 8.1.1 Live ball ammunition, live explosives and exclusive use

- Terrestrial QPWS managed areas - training activities involving live ball ammunition and live explosives are not permitted due to the potential risks of detrimental impact on the environment and other park users. The carriage and discharge of live ball ammunition may be approved by the relevant QPWS Regional Director for use in specific life-threatening safety situations.
- Marine QPWS managed areas
  - Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park – historically, the ADF has conducted training exercises with live ball ammunition and live explosives in limited areas. These exercises generally continue to involve activities spanning joint commonwealth and state waters, state managed intertidal areas and ADF managed terrestrial areas. Notification and environmental assessment of these activities is managed by the ADF and GBRMPA. Examples include underwater explosives training adjacent to Triangular Island and vessel to shore firing around Rattlesnake Island, near Magnetic Island.
  - Moreton Bay and Great Sandy Marine Parks – generally considered unsuitable for training activities involving live ball ammunition and live explosives due to the potential risks to other park users.
  - Defence Area (DA) – to manage public safety DAs may be declared over an area of land, sea or airspace under the Defence Regulation 2016. The DA provides a mechanism for the ADF to prohibit entry to protect people and property at all times or temporarily, such as when training is taking place. QPWS consent to declare a DA over QPWS managed areas requires the relevant Regional Director approval and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- To clarify, where live ball ammunition and/or explosives are used in ADF training activities within marine QPWS managed areas the public are excluded from the vicinity through a DA.
- The general public are excluded from Defence Training Areas. DAs are used to control public access beyond the boundaries of Defence Training Areas during training exercises, such as in areas adjacent to Cowley Beach and Shoalwater Bay Training Areas.
- The QPWS Operational policy – Firearms Management Programme and Firearms Technical Manual does not apply to defence personnel conducting training on QPWS managed areas. For the purposes of this procedural guide, defence personnel include all groups to which this guide applies to (see section 2).
- When ADF personnel have been authorised by QPWS to work with or for QPWS in an official capacity using firearms and live ball ammunition, such as for pest control, ADF personnel are required to abide by the QPWS Operational policy – Firearms Management Programme and Firearms Technical Manual. These resources are not available online and guidance should be provided by the authorising QPWS officer to ADF personnel on requirements for non-QPWS personnel.

### 8.1.2 Blank ammunition

- Blank ammunition is classed as live ammunition but may be considered for use during training activities within terrestrial and marine QPWS managed areas on a case-by-case basis. Considerations include but are not limited to:
  - potential conflict with other park users
  - potential risks from discarded, undischarged blank rounds
  - disturbance of wildlife.
- These risks can be managed through:
  - public notices
  - appropriate training and locations
  - adopting environmental management practices.
- All reasonable effort must be taken to collect and remove discharged cartridges. This includes regrouping after a blank ammunition activity, counting rounds fired and conducting a recovery process.
- Carrying of weapons and use of blank ammunition is only permitted for ADF training activities on terrestrial QPWS managed areas that have been assessed and approved by QPWS upon application of an OEP, or after notification and review for marine QPWS managed areas.
- Weapons stored in a vessel or vehicle that will not be used as part of an ADF activity may be transported into QPWS managed areas during an ADF activity without prior approval.
- Blank ammunition or other types of ignition sources must not be used during State or Local Fire Bans and use is to be consistent with ADF policy.

### 8.2 Use of pyrotechnics in emergency and safety situations

- Pyrotechnics are not to be used for training purposes on any QPWS managed area however ADF Units may be required to carry certain pyrotechnics for emergency and safety purposes during the conduct of activities.
- ADF use of pyrotechnics in an emergency and safety situation is limited to the following types:
  - Distress flares.

- Hand smoke grenades.
- Should a pyrotechnic malfunction during an emergency or a safety incident, it is the ADF Unit's responsibility to have it safely removed. Under no circumstances is the pyrotechnic to be blown in place or left in the training area.

### 8.3 Use of defence vehicles, hardware and infrastructure

- Activities involving the use of armoured tracked vehicles, tanks and artillery will not be permitted on QPWS managed areas.
- **Appendix 2** provides a list of ADF vehicles, vessels and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) commonly proposed for use on QPWS managed areas.
- Requests to use specific vehicles, vessels and RPAs at proposed locations must be detailed when notifying or applying to conduct ADF activities in QPWS managed areas, see Procedures - Section 5..
- Any infrastructure, other than temporary camping equipment, requires QPWS approval through an OEP on terrestrial QPWS managed areas.
- Restrictions on RPA use vary across QPWS managed areas. Any use of RPAs on QPWS managed areas will be subject to QPWS assessment upon application or notification.

## 9. Related permit information

### 9.1 Fish habitat areas

- FHAs are declared and protected under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. An authority may be required for activities that interfere with the habitat within a FHA. Most FHAs are found within state and commonwealth marine parks, but there are exceptions. For more information on the locations of FHAs and related polices, visit [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au) – search: fish habitat.

### 9.2 Camping permits

- All camping at designated QPWS campsites and camping areas (including bush campsites) requires camping permits to be booked and paid online at [www.des.qld.gov.au](http://www.des.qld.gov.au).
- School cadet groups are recognised as an approved educational excursion, tour or camp approved by the chief executive for the purpose of accessing concessional camping fees. If a proposed camping site or area is not currently available online this should be stated in the OEP application.

### 9.3 Vehicle access permits

- Vehicle access permits (VAPs) are not required for commonwealth, state and local government vehicles in designated recreation areas when used for official purposes, including ADF training exercises.
- Vehicle restricted access signage must be complied with unless access is authorised under an OEP.

### 9.4 Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area permits

- For ADF activities proposed on QPWS managed areas within the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area (WHA), an additional permit may be required from the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA). The requirement for a permit will depend on the nature and location of the activity and the potential impacts on World Heritage Area values. Please contact the WTMA for further advice if planning any activities within the WHA. Visit [www.wettropics.gov.au](http://www.wettropics.gov.au) for maps, contact details and further information.

### 9.5 ADF Lease Areas

- Security and Estate Group currently have lease arrangements for parts of QPWS managed areas for training purposes.
- These currently include areas in or adjacent to Wooroonooran and Paluma Range National Parks.
- QPWS permits are not required for ADF training activities in these areas.

### 9.6 ADF insurance and indemnity

- The July 2010 Commonwealth Indemnity and Release Agreement indemnifies the State of Queensland from any liability in relation to ADF activities conducted in QPWS managed areas.
- The ADF agrees to maintain public liability insurance (or general liability insurance) of at least \$20 million.

## 10. QPWS access through Defence Training Areas

- Where access through QPWS managed areas is not practicable, QPWS staff may request access through adjacent Defence Training Areas to conduct activities within QPWS managed areas. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis and access is granted at the Range Controller's discretion.
- QPWS staff should use DOTAM contact information provided in section 5.1 to find the correct email address for the relevant Range Control.
- Access requests must be made at least 3 business days before access is proposed to allow sufficient time for Range Induction and any required safety briefings.
- Range Control of the Training Area may place conditions on QPWS access such as the submission of a biosecurity declaration or the requirement to maintain secure radio contact.
- Where access is repeatedly requested, for example Shoalwater Bay Training Area, ADF procedure may be streamlined through detailing common arrangements with local QPWS management units in standing orders or handover documents. Local QPWS management units may develop standard operating procedures for contacting Range Control and meeting common access requirements.

**Human Rights Act 2019 compatibility**

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the [Human Rights Act 2019](#), the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When acting or making a decision under this procedural guide, officers must comply with that obligation (refer to [Comply with Human Rights Act](#)).

**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, Science and Innovation should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

**Approved By**

Andrew Buckley

Signature

19/12/2023

**A/Deputy Director General**  
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service &  
Partnerships

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**Approved By**

Lieutenant Colonel Susan Manning

Signature

21/12/2023

Date

**Deputy Director of Operations and Training**  
**Area Management – Queensland**  
Department of Defence

## Appendix 1. Legislation references



Topic	Legislation^
Organised event permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Forestry Act 1959</i>, s.73 C Organised events</li> <li>• <i>Recreation Areas Management Act 2006</i>, Division 4 Organised event permits</li> <li>• Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Part 10 Organised event permits</li> <li>– Schedule 8, Dictionary, <i>organised event</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Entry or use without permission after notification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2017, s.51 Entry or use without permission after notification</li> <li>• Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019, s.66 Entry or use without permission after notification</li> <li>• Marine Parks (Great Barrier Reef Coast) Zoning Plan 2004, s.90 Entry or use without permission after notification</li> <li>• Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Zoning Plan 2003 (Commonwealth), s.5.2 Use or entry without permission after notification</li> </ul>
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>, Part 3 Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage</li> <li>• <i>Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003</i>, Part 3 Protection of Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage</li> </ul>
ADF vehicle registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Defence Act 1903</i> (Commonwealth), s.123 Immunity from certain State and Territory laws</li> </ul>
Defence areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defence Regulation 2016 (Commonwealth), s.58 Declaration of defence area</li> </ul>

^ Legislation references current as of March 2023. Please note the list is not intended to include all related legislation, only the most relevant to this procedural guide.






**Appendix 2. ADF equipment identification chart**




**Table 3. Identification chart of ADF vehicles, amphibious vehicles and vessels**

Vehicle classification	Vehicle or vessel type	Description	Uses (e.g. equipment/supplies transport)	Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) T=Tonne	Personnel capacity	Picture of vehicles (supplied by the ADF)
Protected Mobility Vehicle	4x4	Armoured Vehicle	Recon / Troop Carrier	15 T	10	
Australian Light Armoured Vehicle (ASLAV)	8x8	Armoured Vehicle	Recon /Troop Carrier	16.5 T	up to 10	

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Hawkei Light Protected Vehicle	4x4	Armoured Vehicle	Recon / Patrol	7-10 T	4-6	
BOXER Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle	8x8	Combat Recon vehicle	Recon / Patrol	24 T standard 38 T combat	3-8	
Mercedes Benz G Wagon	4x4 / 6x6	General Service Vehicle	Transport	3 – 4.5 T	up to 12	



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Land Rover 110	4x4 / 6x6	General Service Vehicle	Transport	2.5 – 3 T	Up to 8	
MAN HX Truck Series	6x6	Truck / Medium / Heavy	Transport / Logistics	Range 14 – 38 T	3	
Unimog	4x4	Truck Medium	Troop and Logistics	6 T unloaded 12 T loaded	20	



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Scania Truck	6x6	Truck Medium	Logistics	10 T unloaded	2	
Mack Truck	6x6	Truck Heavy	Logistics / Recovery	12 T unloaded 26.6 T loaded	2	
LARC-V	Amphibious / Land	Troop / Cargo	Resupply / Recovery	8 T unloaded 13 T loaded	4	

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<p>LCM – 8 Variants LLC / LHD</p>	<p>Amphibious Landing Craft</p>	<p>Landing Craft Mechanised</p>	<p>Logistics / Resupply</p>	<p>58 T unloaded 113 T Loaded</p>	<p>4-6</p>	
<p>Zodiac RHIB</p>	<p>Small vessels</p>	<p>Estuarine Patrol Vessel</p>	<p>Patrolling / Rescue</p>	<p>0.7 T</p>	<p>Up to 8</p>	

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Quad Bike	4x4	Special Operations	Patrol / Recon	0.5 T	1	
All-Terrain Vehicle	4x4	Special Operations	Patrol / Recon	0.8 T	2	



**Table 4. Identification chart of ADF Remotely Piloted Aircraft**

Drone	Weight	Picture of equipment
Consumer off the shelf Multirotor RPA	Under 2kg	
Black Hornet	Under 50g	
Wasp-AE Mini-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	Under 1.5kg	