

Operational policy

Visitor Management

Fee concessions for educational excursions, tours and camps on QPWS managed areas

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 (incorporating the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships). Operational policies are not intended to be applied inflexibly in all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require a modified application of policy.

Purpose of this policy

This policy sets out fee concessions and exemptions for educational groups undertaking activities on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed areas. These concessions and exemptions relate to the following fees:

- camping permit fees on QPWS managed areas;
- vehicle access permit fees on recreation areas; and
- daily (per person) fees and camping fees payable by commercial tour operators under their commercial activity permits/agreements.

Please note:

- Any fee exemption rightfully granted according to legislation does not remove the need to obtain and display the permit in question; it merely means the fee associated with that permit is waived.
- This policy does not alter a commercial tour operator's rights and obligations under their commercial activity permit/agreement. A commercial tour operator must comply with all terms and conditions of their commercial activity permit/agreement at all times.

Camping permit fees—entitlement to concession

Educational groups who are conducting approved educational excursions, tours or camps are entitled to a fee concession for camping permit fees for each person (five years or older) when travelling **independently** on QPWS managed areas.

Commercial tour operators conducting a commercial tour involving **educational groups** on QPWS managed areas are entitled to a fee concession for camping fees for each client (five years or older) taking part.

The standard and concessionary fees are set out in the following, as amended from time to time: Schedule 7A of the Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017; Schedule 6 of the Forestry Regulation 2015; and Schedule 2 of the Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2017.

Vehicle access permit fees—entitlement to exemption

Vehicle access permits are required for all recreation areas except Inskip Peninsula and Green Island Recreation Areas. However **educational groups** are entitled to a fee exemption for vehicle access permits when driving on QPWS managed **recreation areas**.

Vehicle access permit fees are set out in Schedule 2 of the Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2017, as amended from time to time. The power to apply exemptions is contained in Part 9 of the Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2017.

Daily (per person) fees under a commercial activity permit/agreement

Commercial tour operators conducting a commercial tour involving **educational groups** on QPWS managed areas are entitled to an exemption from the payment of daily fees for each client under their commercial activity permit/agreement.

Definitions

Commercial tour operator means the holder of a commercial activity permit or agreement.

An educational excursion, tour or camp **conducted independently** means the group makes its own transport arrangements, obtains its own camping permits and supplies its own camping equipment and catering, independent of a commercial tour operator.

Educational groups approved by the Chief Executive for the purpose of accessing fee concessions and/or exemptions are: Australian registered state or independent, primary or secondary schools (including distance educators); centres offering the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program; Scouts and Guides; registered or approved Home Education students; and school cadet groups associated with the Australian Defence Force. The educational group rate applies to the entire group including teachers and parent supervisors. Other 'educational groups' will be approved (and registered) on a case by case basis. Recognised educational groups will be provided with an approval letter from the chief executive, and listed on a central register. Excursions, tours or camps organised by TAFE or other tertiary educational institutions do not qualify.

QPWS managed areas means all protected areas, State forests, forest reserves and recreation areas managed under the relevant legislation.

Recreation area means any land managed by QPWS as described under Part 2 of the Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2017.

How to access concessional fees

It is not necessary for an approved educational group to make formal application to QPWS to access concessional fees—to obtain the concessions, organisers need simply quote the name of their educational group (school, group or home education provider), address and relevant registration number in correspondence.

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managed areas**

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

Approved by

Ben Klaassen

Signature

Deputy Director-General
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

30/03/2015

Date

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Appendix 1

Summary of entitlements to concessions and exemptions for educational groups

Group	Camping fees – payable to QPWS by group/ individuals	Camping fees – payable to QPWS by commercial operator	Daily client fees – payable to QPWS by commercial operator	Vehicle access permit required* (recreation areas subject to a VAP#)	Eligible for vehicle access permit fee concession* (e.g. permit is required, but no fees apply)
1. Independent group (non-educational)	YES - standard fees apply	N/A	N/A	YES	NO
2. Independent educational group using own transport	YES - concessional fees apply	N/A	N/A	YES	YES – for vehicles being used in the area for the person’s employment (e.g. educational work purposes)
3. Independent educational group using commercial operator for transport only	YES - concessional fees apply	N/A	N/A	NO – for vehicles covered by the commercial operator’s permit or agreement; YES – for any other vehicles (see row 2 above)	N/A – for vehicles covered by the commercial operator’s permit or agreement; YES – for any other vehicles (see row 2 above)
4. Educational group using commercial operator for transport and other services	N/A	YES - concessional fees apply	No - eligible for automatic exemption	NO – for vehicles covered by the commercial operator’s permit or agreement; YES – for any other vehicles (see row 2 above)	N/A – for vehicles covered by the commercial operator’s permit or agreement; YES – for any other vehicles (see row 2 above)
5. Commercial activity permit / agreement holder conducting non-educational activities	N/A	YES - standard fees apply	YES - standard fees apply	NO	N/A – vehicles are covered by the commercial operator’s permit or agreement

#Recreation areas requiring vehicle access permits: Bribie Island, Fraser Island and Cooloola. Vehicle access permits are also required at Minjerribah and Moreton Island Recreation Areas which are managed by the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation and are not QPWS managed areas.

***Note:** For further information concerning requirements for obtaining vehicle access permits and fee exemptions, please refer to the Operational Policy – Fee exemptions for vehicle access permits on QPWS managed recreation areas.