

# Operational policy

## Visitor Management

### Visitor Safety Policy

*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. Operational policies are not intended to be applied inflexibly in all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require a modified application of policy.*

#### Purpose

This policy outlines the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnership's (QPWS&P) approach to meeting its duty of care to visitors. It also provides advice about how the service addresses safety issues to reduce risks to park visitors while maintaining an area's environmental and cultural values.

#### Background

QPWS&P has a duty of care to visitors to, so far as is reasonably practicable, manage and inform visitors of known risks, but it does not and cannot entirely eliminate all risks in the natural areas that it manages. This means park visitors must remain vigilant to potential risks of accessing natural areas, do prior research, and accept personal responsibility for their own health and safety.

#### Policy statement

1. The *Queensland Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the Department of Environment and Science (DES) Work Health and Safety Management System underpins safety and risk management in QPWS&P managed protected areas and forests including those managed with First Nations partners.
2. QPWS&P manages a range of natural and cultural sites and settings, from remote to highly developed. Management responses to hazards consider the setting, ease of access and levels of visitation.
3. Prohibiting certain types of high-risk conduct is an obvious step in promoting a duty of care for visitor safety, however it is not a means that can be reasonably applied to all settings.
4. More-significant risks are given higher priority for resources than less-significant risks.
5. Approaches to risk management that promote conservation are preferred over alternatives that may compromise conservation, but personal safety is paramount.
6. Protecting property (including park infrastructure) is important, but less important than ensuring visitor safety.
7. The processes of assessing known risks and determining and implementing a management response are documented in the DES Work Health and Safety Management System.
8. Operational Policies, management planning instruments, strategies, and permits and authorities assist in managing visitor safety risks by providing a consistent and systematic approach to classifying visitation patterns and determining appropriate management responses, such as:
  - QPWS&P Visitor Management Policies;
  - the QPWS&P landscape classification system for visitor management;

- Parks and Forests Management Plans and Statements;
- Fire Strategies;
- Pest Strategies;
- Visitor Strategies;
- Permit and Authority conditions;
- Compliance Strategies;
- Regional Risk Registers; and
- the QPWS&P Sign Manual

9. QPWS&P will uphold its legal duty of care to take steps to reduce risk of harm to visitors where:

- the risk is foreseeable;
- the risk is not insignificant;
- a reasonable person in the position of QPWS&P would take precautions; and
- in considering whether a reasonable person would take precautions, we consider:
  - the probability of harm occurring,
  - the likely seriousness of harm,
  - whether it is reasonable and practicable to do so, and
  - the social utility of the activity that creates the risk of harm.

10. Section 15 of the *Civil Liability Act 2003* provides that QPWS&P does not have a duty to warn visitors of an ‘obvious risk’ unless:

- the visitor has requested advice or information about the risk; or
- QPWS&P is required by a written law to warn of the risks.

An obvious risk is defined under section 13 of the *Civil Liability Act 2003* as:

- (1) For this division, an **obvious risk** to a person who suffers harm is a risk that, in the circumstances, would have been obvious to a reasonable person in the position of that person.
- (2) Obvious risks include risks that are patent or a matter of common knowledge.
- (3) A risk of something occurring can be an obvious risk even though it has a low probability of occurring.
- (4) A risk can be an obvious risk even if the risk (or a condition or circumstance that gives rise to the risk) is not prominent, conspicuous or physically observable.
- (5) To remove any doubt, a risk from a thing, including a living thing, is not an obvious risk if the risk is created because of a failure on the part of a person to properly operate, maintain, replace, prepare or care for the thing, unless the failure itself is an obvious risk.

11. QPWS&P consults regularly with internal and external stakeholders and subject matter experts to ensure health and safety management practices are contemporary. QPWS also considers recommendations from safety and coronial investigations, and engage with legal counsel for advice regarding our legal duty relative to unique or site-specific circumstances.

12. Visitor-safety risks are assessed through the DES Work Health and Safety Management System using qualitative risk assessment procedures to assess likelihood and consequence of known risks and adopt and implement control measures. Primary considerations include:

- the nature of the hazard;
- the likelihood that harm will occur if care or action is not taken, considering the levels of site development and visitation (i.e. the number of people, and time of exposure to the hazard); and
- the likely seriousness of the harm.
- how obvious each of these elements may be to a visitor or class of visitors (e.g. non-English speaking visitors or poor swimmers)

13. The DES Work Health and Safety Management System provides the general directions for managing risks across the QPWS&P managed estate. However, in some cases risk management may be more targeted and better dealt with by using other instruments, for example, the Fraser Island Dingo Conservation and Risk Management Strategy and park Fire Management Strategies which provide more focussed attention on unique site by site hazards to inform more detailed safety and risk mitigation measures.

14. The QPWS&P Division and each QPWS&P Regional Directorate maintains a risk register to record identified safety risks and their assessed risk rating. Some risks – for instance, risks with very serious potential impacts – may remain on the register for continued monitoring, even if they have all reasonable control actions implemented. They are reviewed periodically.

15. Under the DES Work Health and Safety Management System and QPWS&P operating procedures, some facilities, events or situations require ongoing documented management reviews and/or risk management frameworks, for example critical infrastructure like lookouts and bridges, hazardous tree inspections at high visitation sites, and the Dingo Strategy.

16. Regional Directors are responsible for the periodic review and endorsement of the Regional Risk Registers within their regions, and QPWS&P Health and Safety branch are responsible for the periodic review and endorsement of the QPWS&P Risk Register.

17. The QPWS&P Safety Ranger appointed in each region will review the regional risk registers and produce an annual report of any notable exceptions for consideration by the QPWS&P Executive Health and Safety Committee.

18. The DES Work Health and Safety Management System sets the general risk rating and tolerability levels for known hazards in QPWS&P managed areas, and the Health and Safety Risk Level Matrix establishes the levels of risk.

19. For some types of visitor-safety risks it may not be possible or practical to adopt the tolerability level set out in the DES risk management system. Where this is the case, the risk register must record the risk, any reasonable treatments, and be endorsed by the relevant QPWS&P Executive Director.

20. Similarly, for some visitor-safety risks it may be necessary to depart from the risk-rating matrix, but any alternative must be documented and approved by the Executive Director.

21. In accordance with the DES Work Health and Safety Management System, risk ratings establish priority and accountability for a management response. However, they do not determine what that response should be. The risks levels are:

- Extreme – requiring immediate and urgent action, and must be brought to the attention of the Director-General. A risk treatment plan must be completed.

- High – needing to be addressed as soon as practicable, and must be brought to the attention of the relevant Executive. A risk treatment plan must be completed.
- Medium – requiring timely action and notification through the chain of management to Senior Management. Completing a risk treatment plan is required.
- Low – can be managed by the relevant manager through implementation of routine policy and procedures.

22. After a risk to visitor safety has been assessed and its risk rating determined, QPWS&P decides on the most appropriate management response(s). Factors considered include:

- available resources, such as funding, trained staff, and management capacity;
- environmental impact of the management response, having regard to the aims of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* or *Forestry Act 1959*, and the management principles for the park;
- the nature of the site, and in particular how developed the site is – for the same level of risk, more-developed sites and settings may require a higher level of management intervention than less-developed sites;
- time required to implement the management response, the acceptability of leaving the risk untreated for that period, and the potential for interim or staged responses;
- how much the proposed management response is likely to reduce the risk;
- sustainability or permanence of the management response and whether its effectiveness will diminish over time and/or require significant ongoing maintenance;
- the impact of the management response on other aspects of park management (e.g. if the response would require an area to be closed to all visitors or to certain activities, the removal of camping sites, or visitor numbers to be limited);
- the social utility or value (in the context of a national park) of a risky activity (e.g. driving a car is statistically a risky activity but people accept the risk because of driving's social utility);
- relevant plans or standards;
- the views and expectations of the community; and
- other statutory requirements.

23. QPWS&P does not develop, promote or recommend opening new visitor areas, or re-opening visitor areas that were closed due to natural disasters or other safety concerns until:

- risks to visitor safety have been assessed; and
- an appropriate management response has been determined (if necessary), and where relevant, implemented.

24. Relevant risk warnings are conveyed via the [QPWS&P Park Alert Page](#), park web pages, conditions reports where relevant to a particular area, Department of Environment and Queensland National Parks social media channels, SMS and email notifications (National Parks Booking Service) and via media and onsite signage.

25. Inspection requirements for built assets (including elevated structures) and hazardous trees are specified and scheduled in the QPWS&P Loc8 system and are subject to periodic maintenance programs. Built assets are inspected according to classification system (see Asset manual B1; B2 inspections). For asset-based risks, the risk treatment is based on the adopted cyclic maintenance plan and inspection regime.

26. Communication is an important tool for managing visitor safety. The QPWS&P Interpretation and Signage Team provide expert guidance on messaging. Safety messages are provided on the DES and QPWS&P websites and social media, in [Park Alerts](#) and publications (such as the Fraser Island Conditions Report) and in other promotional media (such as brochures and posters). Registered camping and vehicle access permit holders can also be contacted via SMS or email. These safety messages identify a range of general risks that may be encountered in parks, and specific risks of note. They are intended to help visitors understand their personal responsibility and to guide them on how to stay safe in parks.

27. QPWS&P will issue warnings through [Park Alerts](#) and on our web pages to provide more detail on the general risks identified in safety messages. These warnings may be general or specific to a park and its particular conditions, including the scale, location and consequences of the risks (where they are not obvious).

28. QPWS&P may also issue specific risk messages as a management response to specific risks to visitor safety where necessary and practical (e.g. a sign warning of a potentially life-threatening risk, at or near the site of risk, for example a recent crocodile sighting). Such messages will clearly provide information on the nature of the risk and the consequences of the risk (where it may not be obvious). Universal imagery of danger and hazard is used wherever available to provide supplementary messaging. This is important for park users unable to read English (refer to QPWS&P Sign Manual). Messaging is sometimes translated into languages commonly used in the area at various locations (e.g. Mandarin at Green Island off Cairns).

29. The QPWS&P Sign Manual outlines the best practice for safety signs:

- Safety signs warn of a particular hazard or hazardous condition that is likely to be life threatening
- Safety signs are generally located as close as possible to the affected area(s)
- Safety signs always use text, and a symbol(s) are recommended to assist with communication
- Safety messages are always placed on stand-alone signs, never on an integrated sign such as a directional sign.
- Safety signs have all been through a rigorous development and approval process and include input from subject matter experts including health and safety experts, organisational psychologists, and legal counsel.
- Examples are available in the QPWS&P Sign Manual and sign development can be arranged through the QPWS&P Interpretation and Signage team.

30. Visitors are responsible for informing themselves of potential natural hazards and risks to their safety prior to visiting areas, particularly in the following circumstances:

- A signed warning or message may be superseded through a Park Alert, in media or by verbal direction from a ranger or member of the police force, following advice of a 'live' risk such as a bushfire or impending natural disaster.
- Some persons potentially at risk of harm may be 'incapable persons' such as a child not immediately under direct control of, or accompanied by, a capable adult. In these cases, particularly where children or non-English speaking visitors are likely to be at risk, greater personal vigilance and extra precautions must be taken to manage safety risks.

31. In accordance with the *Civil Liability Act 2003*, QPWS&P has no liability for harm suffered from obvious risks of ***dangerous recreational activities*** (that is, those activities undertaken by visitors using their own discretion which involve a 'significant risk of physical harm').

***dangerous recreational activity*** means an activity engaged in for enjoyment, relaxation or leisure that involves a significant degree of risk of physical harm to a person.

32. A person proposing to undertake **dangerous recreational activities** in QPWS&P managed areas must ensure the activity is permitted under the relevant nature conservation, forest or recreation area legislation and/or must have obtained consent prior to undertaking the activity. A list of recreational policies and procedures and further resources is available at the following link <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au>
33. Due to the inherent danger associated with **dangerous recreational activities**, particularly in the pursuit of extreme sports, consent may not be given for such activities under any circumstances. Examples include but are not limited to base jumping, caving and cave diving, mountain climbing especially free solo climbing, highlining, and wingsuit flying.
34. Consent for **risky recreational activities** will also not be given when there is a substantial conflict with other park users or there is conflict with the integrity of natural or cultural values as determined by QPWS&P. **risky recreational activity** is an activity or recreational pursuit that involves risking the safety of a person engaging in the activity or that of other persons.
35. Where there are site-specific risks associated with **risky recreational activities** that are not obvious to park visitors, but which QPWS&P is aware of, QPWS&P will make these risks known to park visitors via park web pages and on-site signage. An example of a risk of this kind is a weather-related change, such as a sudden rise in river levels during or after heavy rain like at Wooroonooran National Park's Josephine Falls in North Queensland.
36. Conditions may also be placed upon a consent given for a **risky recreational activity** (e.g. participants may be required to comply with relevant industry codes of practice).
37. Specific provisions or facilities may be required for certain recreational activities to address their relevant risk and safety issues or to protect the environment. These provisions or facilities will be detailed on the department's web pages and in their management plan or statement.
38. The Queensland Police Service has statutory responsibility for all search and rescue operations. QPWS&P provides access through parks and forests for all search and rescue operations, and all emergency services have access to locked gates where these are in place for management purposes.
39. QPWS&P provide assistance to search and rescue operations on QPWS&P managed estate where requested and as appropriate, particularly with regard to ensuring environmental protection, minimising adverse impacts on park values, and providing local knowledge of parks tracks and trails.
- How do we determine the appropriate management response?**
40. In some circumstances, such as for risks rated as **extreme**, it will be appropriate to take immediate action to reduce the risk. Risk warnings, signage and temporary barriers may be established to reduce visitor exposure to hazards until long-term responses are implemented.
41. Management responses will always take into account factors listed in paragraph 22, and any relevant management plans for the particular park.
42. A management response may involve:
- managing the hazard;
  - managing the exposure of visitors to the hazard;
  - managing both the hazard and the exposure of visitors to it; or
  - doing nothing and choosing to tolerate the risk.

## **How do we manage exposure of visitors to a hazard?**

43. Managing the exposure of visitors to a hazard means increasing visitor awareness through signage or web messaging and/or reducing exposure by limiting access, or time of exposure. This can reduce risk without compromising the conservation of natural or cultural values.

44. A management response to reduce exposure to hazard may include:

- providing a specific contemporary risk message and other general warnings and safety messages through signs, printed material, the website or social media;
- modifying visitor use at the hazard location (e.g. re-routing a walking track);
- modifying visitor behaviour (e.g. imposing speed limits);
- redesigning or relocating a visitor area; or
- closing a visitor area – partly or wholly, temporarily or permanently.

45. A hazard may be:

- a natural feature, such as a cliff, water hole or tree;
- a natural event, such as a storm or fire;
- a built structure, such as a viewing platform or walking track;
- dangerous wildlife including crocodiles, sharks, cassowaries, dingoes, snakes;
- wildlife on roads; or
- of some other kind.

46. It may be impractical or impossible to physically manage some natural hazards. Where it is possible and desirable to manage a natural or other hazard, the response will generally involve modifying a hazard (e.g. with fencing) or removing it (e.g. by closing a track).

47. It may be inappropriate to manage a hazard (usually a natural one) if by doing so QPWS&P would adversely impact on the park's natural, social, scenic or cultural values. In these cases, QPWS&P will closely analyse and monitor risk tolerance.

48. A natural disaster event or management program, for example, fire or pest programs, may create risks that require a park, or part of it, to be closed until it is deemed safe to re-open. Along with on-site signage, [Park Alerts](#) and appropriate social media platforms are the reliable sources for contemporary information sharing on park closures.

## **How do we document risk assessments?**

49. The risk assessments and management decisions for known risks are documented. For risks rated as **medium** or **low**, an entry in the relevant Regional Risk Register is usually sufficient. Documentation assists future management and can be called up in court action, if an event occurs, to demonstrate that QPWS&P has applied a systematic approach to visitor-safety risk management.

50. In accordance with the DES Work Health and Safety Management System, for any risk rated **extreme** or **high**, the management response will be documented in the relevant QPWS&P Risk Register with a risk treatment. Documentation will include certification that the response has been implemented.

51. Where resources permit, a risk-treatment may also be required for risks rated as **medium**, if these risks are not able to be fully controlled and require on-going monitoring.

52. A risk treatment is documented in the qualitative risk assessment matrix and includes:

- a description of the risk;
- details of the assessment of the hazard and exposure of visitors to the hazard, and any relevant information that explains how the risk was determined;
- measures currently in place to manage the risk (e.g. policies and procedures);
- details of the alternative management responses that have been considered and the likely consequences and effectiveness of these alternatives;
- details of the costs and other resources that would be involved in undertaking the alternative management responses (where relevant);
- an environmental and cultural assessment of the proposed management response (where relevant); and
- an evaluation of the risk that will remain after the risk-treatment has been applied.

53. Regional Directors are responsible for ensuring that risk assessments and management decisions are documented, and that agreed risk treatments have been implemented.

### **Who carries out inspections?**

54. QPWS&P periodically inspect any built assets or natural resources that present potential hazards (e.g. a lookout, or leaning trees) and manages them (e.g. 'no access' fencing and restricted access area dedication and signage, tree removal).

55. A written record is kept of the inspections and maintenance of such assets, to document how they have been managed and show that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that the asset performs adequately for its purpose. The QPWS&P Strategic Asset Management System Loc8 is used to schedule and record inspections and maintenance.

### **Where do we place general and specific safety and risk messages?**

56. General safety messages are placed on signs and on the [DES website](#) and in other publications and media: <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au>

57. In addition to general safety messages, further comprehensive safety information is provided on the [DES website](#) and in other publications and media on areas, activities, features and events common in parks, including (but not limited to):

#### **General safety**

- Stay safe and make your visit to Queensland's parks and forests memorable for all the right reasons.

#### **Best practice video clips**

- It is vital to pay close attention to signs that warn of local dangers. Follow tips in these videos to stay safe and have an enjoyable visit.

#### **Be wildlife aware**

- Ensure you are aware of wildlife you may encounter during a park visit to avoid contact with dangerous animals.

#### **Boat and fish with care**

- Rules and tips for staying safe on the water and looking after wildlife in and around marine and terrestrial national parks.

### **Camp with care**

- Tips for your safety and caring for the environment whilst camping in parks and forests.

### **Caring for parks and forests**

- Rules to be observed when visiting Queensland's national parks and forests.

### **Caring for the Reef**

- Rules and behavioural standards to follow to ensure the Reef is protected.

### **Four-wheel drive with care**

- Driving on sand

### **Horse ride with care**

- Safety tips, rules and getting prepared before you go horse riding in parks and forests.

### **Mountain bike and cycle with care**

- Survive your ride—be realistic about your skill level and follow rules and tips for cycling in parks and forests.

### **Safety during extreme weather**

- A reminder about staying safe and what to avoid during extreme weather events in and around parks and forests.

### **Trail-bike ride with care**

- Read more about the rules for riding in parks and forests.

### **Walk with care**

- View guidelines for preparing to walk safely and carefully through parks and forests.

### **Water safety**

- Whether you're snorkelling on a sparkling reef, canoeing up a quiet river or floating silently in a volcanic lake, be safe and take care of yourself and the environment around you.

58. All safety information for common risks includes:

- the nature of the risk;
- the consequence of the risk (if it is not obvious); and
- what a visitor should do to avoid the risk.

59. General warnings will be issued for individual parks based on the risks identified for those parks. These general warnings may be delivered to the public via a number of means including in park-specific information in Park Alerts or on the DES website, through signs, via SMS and email and promotional media such as brochures, or conditions reports such as the Fraser Island Conditions Report. The QPWS&P Sign Manual has been developed over many years with input from relevant experts including safety experts, organisational psychologists, and legal counsel with considerable experience in the field, to provide guidance on the format, content and location of general warning signs.

60. If the management response to a specific visitor-safety risk is to deliver a risk message using signage, brochures and/or websites, the QPWS&P Sign Manual is the first point of reference for guidance. The QPWS&P

Interpretation and Signage Unit provide expert advice and approvals on the most effective safety messaging and communication techniques.

61. If standard wording is not appropriate for a unique risk, a new risk message may be required for a sign and is developed by the QPWS&P interpretation and signage team with the following principles in mind:

- The message must be given in a manner that will result in people being warned or informed before engaging in an activity in a park.
- The message needs to convey a sense of risk and danger.
- A message can be general and not identify the specific risk and the consequences of the risk (if they are not obvious), but where there is a particular risk the message must at the least warn of the general nature of the risk.
- The message should be clear about the area that it relates to, when the risk occurs (if appropriate), and any conditions that may give rise to a risk.

62. Signs and messages warning of risks are regularly inspected, reviewed and maintained.

63. QPWS&P administered legislation contains protection from liability provisions whereby the State cannot be held civilly liable for an act done or omission made in the performance of its functions, including the exercise of a power, or the management and operation of the area covered under the relevant Act (some exclusive exceptions apply to defective infrastructure).

64. Visitors are advised to do their research prior to leaving home, be aware they are entering natural wilderness areas, ensure they are adequately prepared for the circumstances they are likely to encounter, maintain vigilance, and be accountable for their own health and safety.

## **Scope and application**

This policy applies to all lands and waters managed by QPWS&P including where formally jointly managed with First Nations people including areas managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*, the *Forestry Act 1959* and the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

## **Definitions**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Dangerous recreational activity</b>	As defined under the <i>Civil Liability Act 2003</i> means an activity engaged in for enjoyment, relaxation or leisure that involves a significant degree of risk of physical harm to a person.
<b>Divisional Risk Register</b>	a document, maintained by the QPWS&P Health and Safety branch for the QPWS&P division of DES, that formally records the risk assessment and management process for high profile general safety hazards. It provides the basis for ongoing risk monitoring and reporting.
<b>Exposure hazard</b>	exposure level of visitors to hazards. It contributes to the likely consequence of an event.

<b>Incapable person</b>	a person who, because of his or her young age or physical or intellectual disability, lacks the capacity to understand a risk warning.
<b>Management response</b>	the treatment of a risk or the process of selecting and implementing risk-mitigation measures.
<b>Management Plans and Management Statements</b>	statutory documents that are required by, and prepared in accordance with, the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i> , and which set out relevant aspects of a park's specific management requirements.
<b>Regional Risk Register</b>	a document, maintained by staff for their region, that formally records the risk assessment and management process for visitor-safety hazards. It provides the basis for ongoing risk monitoring and reporting.
<b>Risk</b>	the chance of something happening that will have an impact on health and safety objectives (e.g. an event or circumstance and the consequences that may flow from it). Risk is generally measured in terms of a combination of the consequences and the likelihood of an event.
<b>Risk assessment</b>	the process of identifying, analysing and evaluating risks.
<b>Risky recreational activity</b>	an activity or recreational pursuit that involves risking the safety of a person engaging in the activity or that of other persons.
<b>Strategic Asset Management System Loc8</b>	QPWS&P primary business tool to support the planning and delivery of asset management. It provides a corporate master list of all assets QPWS&P owns and maintains.

## Reference materials

DES Work Health and Safety Policy

DES Work Health and Safety Risk Management Procedure

DES Work Health and Safety Incidents, Recording, and Investigation Procedure

## Authorities

*Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

*Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*

*Civil Liability Act 2003*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992*

*Forestry Act 1959*

*Recreation Areas Management Act 2006*

*Marine Parks Act 2004*

ISO 45001:2018 Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use

## **Further Information**

### **DES Work Health and Safety System resources**

The following resources are available from Sharepoint > Corporate Services > People and Culture > Workforce Safety & Wellbeing:

- ISO45001:2018 Requirements
- Due Diligence Framework
- WHS Expectations and Responsibilities
- WHS Legislative Framework
- Determining WHS Legal Requirements and Other Requirements Process
- WHSMS Structure
- WHS Culture Statement
- Determining WHS Resources Process
- Determining WHS Training Needs Process
- WHS Communications and Awareness Guidelines
- WHS Documentation and Information Control Guidelines
- WHS Considerations in Change Management Process
- WHS Considerations in DES Procurement Processes
- System Performance Measures
- Compliance with Legal and Other Requirements Process
- WHS Legislative Compliance Framework
- WHS Documentation Map
- Divisional WHS Template
- WHSMS on a Page

**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

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