



# Determination of Permit Application

Determination of permit application for activities within the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area  
Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998

<b>PERMIT NUMBER</b>	<b>WTMA23004</b>
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The Wet Tropics Management Authority (the Authority), having considered the proposed activity described below and, in accordance with Part 4 Division 2 of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* (WTM Plan), having taken into account to the fullest extent possible all matters likely to impact on the integrity of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area as a result of the proposed activity, by this permit authorises:

<b>APPLICANT</b>			
Legal Entity:	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (QETC)		
Role of Applicant named below:	General Manager Health Safety Environment		
Applicant:	[REDACTED]		
Street or registered address:	33 Harold Street		
Suburb/town:	Virginia		
State:	QLD	Postcode:	4014

<b>ACTIVITY LOCATION</b>			
Property Name (if relevant):	Various		
Lot on Plan(s):	Various		
Street address:	Various		
Suburb/town:	Various		
State:	QLD	Postcode:	

<b>AUTHORISATION</b>	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	25. October 2023
Executive Director Delegate of Wet Tropics Management Authority	

This permit is subject to the conditions specified in Schedule 1.

## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

Maintenance of Powerlink Infrastructure

## PERMITTED ACTIVITY(S)

In accordance with the appropriate sections of the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998*, the following activity(s) are permitted:

- 33(a) - An activity the person was lawfully carrying out immediately before the 2020 amendment day.
- 33(c) - Maintaining community services infrastructure, visitor infrastructure or another structure
- 33(e) - Clearing vegetation around a structure or road existing immediately before 1 September 1998, or has been lawfully built under this plan.
- 33(m) - Disposing of an undesirable plant
- 33(p) - Using a motorised aircraft, for commercial purposes, to take-off from, or land in, the area or fly at less than 1,000ft above the area, other than as reasonably necessary for safety purposes

## KEY DATES

Allowed commencement date of activity:	01 November 2023
Permit expiry date:	01 November 2028 Unless sooner cancelled or suspended by prior notice in writing.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Pursuant to section 53 (2) of the WTM Plan, this decision was based on the following reasons:

- the application was properly made under the WTM Plan and a decision is required on the application within the timeframe set out in the WTM Plan;
- the proposal is an activity which has been assessed pursuant to Part 4 Division 2 of the WTM Plan as having minimal impacts on the World Heritage values of the subject land provided it is undertaken in accordance with the conditions attached to the permit.

If you are not satisfied with the above conditions you may ask the Authority to review this decision but you must notify your request in writing within 60 days of this notice, indicating the reasons for the request and any other information you consider relevant.

The Authority will review the decision as soon as practicable and notify you of the outcome. If you are still not satisfied, you may appeal to the Planning and Environment Court against the decision.



## SCHEDULE 1: CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

The activity shall be undertaken in accordance with the application dated 18 30 August 2023 unless modified by the following conditions:

1. All works shall be undertaken in conformity with the approved Powerlink Environmental Work Plans (EWPs) for the locations specified in Schedule 2. The EWPs may be updated or amended following consultation between Powerlink and the Authority, subject to the review and approval of any changes by the Authority.
2. The permittee shall ensure that prior to conducting any works within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area that:
  - I. any employee, agent or contractor of the permittee conducting the works has been informed of the requirements of this permit, the EMP and other relevant documents;
  - II. the works supervisor has obtained a briefing describing the natural values of the subject site from Powerlink's Environmental Compliance Officer, or a Wet Tropics Management Authority officer or the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officer responsible for the locality in which the subject site is situated; and
  - III. the works supervisor must also be given direction from Powerlink's Environmental Compliance Officer or a Wet Tropics Management Authority officer or the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officer as to the nature and extent of the clearing or earthworks to be undertaken.
3. Maintenance works shall only take place within the existing infrastructure footprint<sup>1</sup>. Any other works beyond the existing footprint requires further approval by the Authority.
4. All road and earthworks shall be undertaken in conformity with the best practice guidelines contained in the *Road Maintenance Code of Practice*<sup>2</sup>.
5. All works shall be undertaken in conformity with *The Maintenance of Electricity Corridors in Queensland Parks and Forests Code of Practice*<sup>3</sup>.
6. Abrasive blasting of equipment or structures is to be carried out according to the Preventative Control Measures detailed in the generic *Environmental Management Requirements - Abrasive Blasting and Painting*. As required in Section 2.1 of this document, Site Based Management Plans are to be prepared for abrasive blasting activities taking into account the location of the structures with respect to sensitive receptors such as waterways. The Management Plans must be approved by the Authority prior to the commencement of work.
7. Where exposed soil is to be left unprotected, erosion and sediment controls must be implemented. Control measures must be designed specifically for individual sites and must take into account type and extent of construction, soil type, slope, expected duration of exposure and the likelihood of significant rainfall. Roadworks involving the disturbance of soil should employ erosion and sediment control techniques described in *Principles of Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control*<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> 'Infrastructure footprint' is illustrated on page 3 of the *Road Maintenance Code of Practice for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area* <https://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/roadmaintenancecop2012.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Road Maintenance Code of Practice for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area*. Qld Government, Department of Transport and Main Roads. <https://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/roadmaintenancecop2012.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Queensland Electricity Supply Industry (QESI) Maintenance Code for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. [http://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/s62\\_04elec.pdf](http://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/s62_04elec.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Principles of Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control, International Erosion Control Association. <https://www.austieca.com.au/documents/item/430>.

8. Erosion and sediment control measures must be monitored immediately following wet weather to review their efficacy and effect and make any necessary modifications. Any modifications must be monitored until such time as the site is deemed to be stable and drainage structures are effective in managing overland flow to the satisfaction of the Authority.
9. Weed Control
  - I. Mechanical weed management should be the preferred method of weed control.
  - II. Herbicide use shall be limited to control vegetation where mechanical methods are not economical nor practical.
  - III. Herbicides shall be administered only by trained operators.
  - IV. Herbicides should be applied selectively in a manner that will retard the growth of weeds and non-native grasses while promoting the growth of low growing native endemic grasses and plants.
  - V. Herbicides used for spray applications should preferably be glyphosate based and should not contain surfactants when used in the vicinity of wetlands and waterways.
  - VI. Herbicide drift should be minimised so non-target species are not affected.
  - VII. Other herbicides that may be used within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area are those referenced in the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Pest Medicines Authority (APVMA) Permit to Allow Minor Use of an Agvet Chemical Product<sup>5</sup>. Use of any other herbicides must be approved by the Authority in writing.
10. Prior to commencing works, all machinery that has operated off-road in areas containing invasive plants<sup>6</sup> must be washed down to remove earth and seeds before entering the World Heritage Area. Wash down shall be in a designated area to reduce the opportunity for further spread of weeds. Following completion of works, wash down areas are to be monitored for weed infestations with appropriate weed control conducted where required.
11. Material used in the maintenance of mountain-top facilities must not be sourced in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and must be free of weeds and of the plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. All clothing and equipment must be pathogen free before entering these areas. Phytophthora information is presented in the WTMA *Stamp out Phytophthora* brochure<sup>7</sup>.
12. All fuel and chemicals shall be handled and stored in a manner that will enable containment of the substance in the event of an accidental spill or leak.
13. Roadside vegetation clearing shall be restricted to branches and vines:
  - I. that are within a distance of 4.5 metres above the road surface (unless otherwise modified in the approved EMP), or
  - II. which intrude directly on to the carriageway of the road, or
  - III. which constitute a threat to the safety of road users, or
  - IV. where line of sight is compromised.

<sup>5</sup> Currently PER11463 expiry date 30 April 2027 <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER11463.PDF>

<sup>6</sup> Restricted invasive plants or prohibited invasive plants: <https://www.business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/land-management/health-pests-weeds-diseases/weeds-diseases/invasive-plants>

<sup>7</sup> Stamp out Phytophthora – Rainforest dieback in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area: <http://www.wettropics.gov.au/site/user-assets/docs/phytophthora%20guide.pdf>



14. Vegetation clearing around structures shall be restricted to branches and vines that intrude directly on to the structure or constitute a direct threat to the safety of the structure or users.
15. Vegetation pruning should comply with AS 4373 - *Pruning of Amenity Trees* to minimise damage to adjacent plants. Vegetative material should be disposed on site. To limit impacts on presentation values, prunings should be cut into short sections and returned to the forest floor in an aesthetically sensitive manner. Vegetative material may only be removed from the site with the prior approval of the Authority.
16. The permittee shall notify the Authority no less than 7 days prior to the commencement of any vegetation management work that:
  - I. involves any disturbance to tree roots; or
  - II. involves the clearing of any vegetation part of an 'endangered' or 'of concern' Regional Ecosystem under the provisions of the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*; or
  - III. impacts upon the scenic amenity of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area; or
  - IV. involves the clearing of any vegetation which may be advised by the Authority.The permittee shall not commence any vegetation management work specified in this condition without written approval from the Authority.
17. Road spoil shall be disposed of in a suitable disposal area outside of the World Heritage Area unless prior approval has been sought from the Authority. Road spoil is not to be pushed into or over the road verge. This condition does not preclude the use of road spoil for use in fill sections of the road or for resurfacing of the road or other permitted activity.
18. Material for road maintenance must not be sourced in the World Heritage Area without prior approval from the Authority.
19. Non-vegetative wastes (e.g. garbage) should be removed from the site of activity and disposed of at a licensed facility as soon as practicable.
20. All buildings or structures shall be maintained using materials that minimise the impacts upon the scenic values of the location.
21. All aircraft used for infrastructure maintenance shall be flown above 1000ft above ground level when operating over the World Heritage Area unless:
  - I. Taking off or landing; or
  - II. Flying at a level that is reasonably necessary for safety purposes; or
  - III. Flying over infrastructure footprints.
22. An Annual Return (Schedule 3 of this permit) shall be provided to the Authority by the 1 August each year and cover the previous financial year from 1 July to 30 June. The Annual Return shall detail:
  - I. Records of training including the training provided, the number of persons trained, the date of training and the trainer; and
  - II. Compliance with the permit conditions.

**SCHEDULE 2: INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATION**

Location	Infrastructure
Barron Gorge to Kamerunga BS1233	Powerline
Ross to Chalumbin BS1220	Powerline
Chalumbin to Turkinje BS1253, BS1600	Powerline
Springmount to Woree BS1235, BS1254, BS1258, BS1259	Powerline
Ingham South to Tully BS1649, BS1650	Powerline
Innisfail to Woree BS1236, BS1633	Powerline
Kareeya to Chalumbin BS1234, BS1602	Powerline
Wrights Lookout Repeater WRLR	Communications site