

Information sheet

Wildlife management

Developing a property management plan

This information sheet provides the background information for the Form – Property management plan template.

Background

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) administers the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act). The object of the Act is the conservation of nature; however, the Act and subordinate legislation contain provisions for the lawful taking of protected wildlife in specified circumstances.

In circumstances where a protected animal is causing or may cause damage to property (including products of agriculture, aquaculture or mariculture, stock or infrastructure) or represents a threat to human health or wellbeing, a person may apply for a damage mitigation permit (DMP) to take the animal.

A DMP may only be granted if the chief executive (or delegate) is satisfied:

- a) the applicant is a suitable person to hold a DMP; and
- b) the survival of the animal in the wild will not be adversely affected; and
- c) the taking of the animal is humane; and
- d) there is or may be a threat to human health or wellbeing; or
- e) there is or may be damage caused by a protected animal, where:
 - if not prevented or controlled, may cause significant economic loss or may harm the ecological sustainability of nature; and
 - the landholder can demonstrate that they have made a reasonable attempt to prevent or minimise the damage caused by the protected animal and the attempt through non-lethal means has not been effective.

In May 2008, it was announced that damage mitigation permits for shooting flying foxes would no longer be issued from September 2008. This followed a finding by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee that shooting flying foxes for crop protection was inhumane. Under the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* (section 185), a damage mitigation permit may only be granted if the proposed way of taking the animal is humane and not likely to cause unnecessary suffering to the animal.

The maximum duration of a DMP is six months. However, if an applicant operates under an 'approved property management plan', a DMP may be issued for a period of up to three years.

An **approved property management plan** means a plan that is about the management of the land, provides for the conservation of wildlife on the land and is approved by the Department.

The purpose of a property management plan (PMP) for wildlife is to provide an accredited wildlife management framework which accommodates land management activities, such as primary production and local government area administration, while protecting and conserving wildlife, and which operates as an 'approved property management plan' under the Act.

Preparing and submitting a property management plan

A template with specific content prompts to assist applicants to develop an appropriate PMP is available at http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/ecoaccess/plants_and_animals/land_management/native_animal_management.html

Individual landholders/businesses/local governments or other relevant organisations are responsible for preparing their PMP. Your local EHP office is able to provide technical guidance and advice as well as direct you to specialists within EHP.

Note that many non-lethal deterrent methods including capture and relocation require authorisation under a damage mitigation permit.

Permit and Licence Management resources

Permit and Licence Management is a link on EHP's environmental website and provides a single-point location for accessing all documents relating to licences and permits. Refer to Permit and Licence Management at http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/ecoaccess/plants_and_animals/index.html for links to the following documents.

Information sheet – Damage mitigation permits for the aquaculture industry following declared natural disasters
Form – Property management plan template

Further information

Permit and Licence Management - palm@derm.qld.gov.au or 1300 130 372

Your local QPWS office – see <http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/contactus/index.html>

EHP Wildlife Strategy Unit (based in Brisbane), phone (07) 3330 5254.

EHP resource management website (refer to property planning pages including how to make property maps) – www.derm.qld.gov.au/property/planning/index/html