



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 54

DEFENCE FORCE TRAINING ACTIVITIES

February 2016

1. OBJECTIVE

To ensure the safe and appropriate access to and use of lands and waters managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife for the purpose of defence force training.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all defence force training activities on lands and waters managed by the department under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) and the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* (SCRM Act). The associated divisional procedure sets out the types of training that may occur on the categories of land and water managed by the department, and the conditions they may operate under.

3. CONTEXT

This policy recognises that defence force training activities are an acceptable use of some department-managed lands and waters, although the defence force agencies have no special rights or interests on such lands. The department will approve such activities where it is safe and appropriate to do so. However defence force training activities may conflict with the conservation objectives and recreational values of such lands and waters. For this reason, some activity types are not generally appropriate in certain categories of department-managed lands and waters such as nature reserves. When considering applications, the department will ensure that environmental impact, as well as risk and disturbance to other users of the area, is minimised. In cases where unacceptable impacts, risk or disturbance is likely, activities may not be approved.

4. LEGISLATION

Legislation relevant to this policy includes the:

- CALM Act;
- SCRM Act; and
- *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

5. POLICY

The department will:

- 5.1 give approval for defence force training activities to occur on department-managed lands and waters where it is safe and appropriate to do so; and

- 5.2 enable training activities where they contribute to the achievement of the department's conservation land management functions providing that they do not disadvantage the department's workforce.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The department will:

- 6.1 consider applications for defence force training activities on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the associated divisional procedure;
- 6.2 use the following key principles to assess activities:
 - (a) minimisation of impacts to natural and cultural values; and
 - (b) minimisation of risk and disturbance to other users of the area;
- 6.3 generally not close roads, sites or areas that are open to the public;
- 6.4 encourage the defence force unit or unit training coordinator to submit an application to conduct training activities at least three months prior to the activity commencing;
- 6.5 at the local level, liaise with the designated defence force training unit coordinator before, during and after the activities to ensure that damage, risk and disturbance is minimised;
- 6.6 where applicable, set conditions when granting approval to carry out activities so as to minimise damage, risk and disturbance;
- 6.7 monitor the activities and collaboratively resolve issues as they arise;
- 6.8 consider withdrawing approval for activities where conditions are not met;
- 6.9 set fees to recover the costs associated with preparing permits including site inspections and for the use of departmental facilities (such as camping areas) where the other users pay an equivalent fee;
- 6.10 waive fees in instances where work is being carried out to the advantage of the department;
- 6.11 seek agreement from the relevant unions prior to the commencement of any training programs that could potentially disadvantage the department's workforce;
- 6.12 issue any compensation claim for property damage within 72 hours of completion of the activity or make alternative arrangements in advance of this timeframe; and
- 6.13 consider the suitability of areas for defence force training activities when preparing or reviewing management plans.

7. CUSTODIAN

Director Regional and Fire Management Services.

8. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's website and intranet.

9. KEY WORDS

Australian Army; Department of Defence; Australian Air Force; Australian Navy; military training; training exercises; field exercises.

10. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no later than February 2021.

11. DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL

Approved by



Jim Sharp
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Effective date: 19 February 2016