

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Administration Instruction No. 56

ACCESS TO GARDEN ISLAND - PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESS

Introduction

This Administration Instruction deals with the necessary procedures to be followed in order to gain approval from the Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling for access to Garden Island.

Background

Garden Island is vested with the Commonwealth Government and managed by the Department of Defence. All private land on Garden Island was acquired by the Commonwealth during the period 1915 to 1916.

The island is zoned to facilitate its defence facilities. The naval base (HMAS Stirling) provides a base for Australia's western seaboard to support fleets operating in the north and north-west of Australia. HMAS Stirling also provides the headquarters for Australia's submarine squadron.

Access to the island is governed by Part IXB of the Defence Act and the Defence Public Areas By Laws made pursuant to S. 16ZD of the Defence Act. Some seventy- percent of the island is available to the public under controlled access. Public access is allowed by boat to designated shorelines for daylight hours only. Tourist coaches are allowed to visit the settler's memorial at Cliff Head. This is normally the only site where passengers are allowed to disembark from the coaches. The public areas of the island are managed, by the Department of Defence, for the purposes of nature conservation and passive forms of recreation.

A Commonwealth/State Agreement was reached in 1979 concerning the management and control of Garden Island and a national park ranger was seconded to the island. Under the Statement of Arrangement the ranger is responsible for non-security matters relating to environmental management and other matters as may be directed from time to time by the Commonwealth. The ranger is directly responsible to the Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling and has responsibility for supervising access by the public on the island.

CALM is the responsible State agency for meeting the requirements of the Agreement.

In 1979 a Garden Island Environmental Advisory Committee (GIEAC) was established. GIEAC's role is to provide advice on all aspects of the environmental management of Garden Island including the regulation of the public and the provision and maintenance of facilities for public use on the island.

CALM and the CSIRO are respective State and Commonwealth representatives on GIEAC.

Access

Garden Island is a significant conservation area. It attracts numerous requests for access by a range of institutions and individuals to carry out research and studies on the island.

Access is also requested at short notice for whale strandings or activities which have attracted media attention.

Procedure

To get access to the island the following procedure is to be followed by CALM staff:

1. Any research/study program is to be prepared in detail outlining the long-term benefits for the island's conservation/future.
2. The program is to be submitted to the CALM representative on GIEAC, for submission to GIEAC-
3. If urgent, application is to be made to the CALM representative on GIEAC who will contact the Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling to seek approval for access.
4. The CALM representative will inform the applicant of the outcome of GIEAC's or the Commanding Officer's decision.
5. Any departmental request for short term or emergency access to Garden Island is to be directed to the CALM representative on the GIEAC, who is currently the District Manager of Perth District.

6. Requests outside these guidelines may not be approved by the Navy or GIEAC.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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