

HEAD OFFICE - CRAWLEY

Our Ref: 008211F2206

NECESSARY OPERATIONS

ADMIN INSTRUCTION 39. FIRE BREAK CONSTRUCTION

Admin Instruction 39 currently requires the approval of the Divisional Manager Operations for necessary operations involving new fire break construction.

For the purposes of this instruction the activity – Fire Break Construction can be considered in two parts.

- 1 Perimeter Fire Break construction.
- 2 Internal Fire Break construction.

The Level of approval for Part 1, perimeter fire break construction, is hereby devolved to the Regional Manager.

The level for approval for Part 2, internal fire break construction, remains with the Divisional Manager Operations.

This amendment should be read in conjunction with all other provisions of Administration Instruction 39 and in all cases the Impact Evaluation Checklist must be completed.

Attached is a revised schedule of levels for Approval for Necessary Operations dated November 1988. Please ensure that it replaces the original schedule.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15 November 1988

Distribution: Lists A B D E and F

LEVELS FOR APPROVAL FOR NECESSARY OPERATIONS
IN NATIONAL PARKS, NATURE RESERVES
AND CONSERVATION PARKS
NOVEMBER 1988

ACTIVITIES	PERSON TO APPROVE
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Search and Rescue	DM
Fire Protection:	
firebreak maintenance	DM
firebreak construction-perimeter	RM
-internal	Div M
burning buffers	RM
area prescribed burning	Div M
fire suppression	DM
Disease Protection:	
existing programmes	DM
new programmes	RM
Control of Noxious weeds:	
existing programmes	DM
new programmes	RM
Control of Feral Animals:	
existing programmes	DM
new programmes	RM
Protection of Known Rare Species, Cultural:	
archaeological and historic sites	DM
new occurrences/sites	RM
Recreation:	

existing facilities DM
new facilities Gen M

Access:
maintenance RM
closure RM
new construction Gen M

Control of Soil Erosion/Rehabilitation: RM

Mining and Exploration: Hon Minister

SEC, Telecom. WAWA, etc:
maintenance RM
new work Gen M

DM District Manager
RM Regional Manager
Div M Divisional Manager Operations
Gen M General Manager
Hon Minister Hon Minister for CALM

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

POLICY DIRECTORATE

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION NO. 39

Ref: 008211F2206

NECESSARY OPERATIONS - A GUIDE FOR MANAGERS

INTRODUCTION

Necessary operations apply to National Parks and Nature Reserves when there is no approved management plan. They are defined in the CALM Act, section 33(4), as "those operations that are necessary for the preservation or protection of persons, property, land, flora or fauna, or for the preparation of a management plan".

By this definition necessary operations are restricted in scope and it is important that they do not pre-empt the options for a future management plan.

Necessary operations are usually proposed as part of the interim guidelines prepared by district and specialist staff, to guide the management of an area until a management plan is prepared. (Refer to Administrative Instruction No. 23 Interim Guidelines for Operations). Occasionally, necessary operations are proposed as a reaction to crisis, or to deal with a particular problem; for instance feral animal control, or upgrading a recreation site that may be suitable now but with increased use would deteriorate.

Necessary operations must be approved in a consistent manner and must be environmentally acceptable. It must also be clear what constitutes a necessary operation. This is a guide to CALM Managers on these issues.

CRITERIA FOR DECIDING WHETHER AN OPERATION QUALIFIES AS A NECESSARY OPERATION

The criteria themselves are those listed above, ie. necessity for:

- (1) preservation of
 - persons
 - property
 - land
 - flora/fauna; or
- (2) preparation of a management plan;

and ultimately any project must comply with these criteria.

Some factors which may assist in leading to the decision are:

- Whether the proposed operation is part of an already approved program (NB: care should be taken in distinguishing the provisions of S.33 from those of S.150 which deals with the Executive Director honouring the commitments made under prior legislation).
- Whether the proposed operation is maintenance, complete reconstruction of an existing facility, or a new facility (NB: the latter two do not rule out a proposed project as a necessary operation but need more careful consideration).
- Whether a management plan would be preempted by a proposed operation.
- Whether a management plan is being prepared, or is due to be started shortly. (This is not so much a legal factor as a "political" one, ie. if we start work on a new project at the same time as a plan, the planning process might be considered to have been short cut).
- Whether interim guidelines are available (approval of these will have already taken the requirements of the Act into consideration).

Some factors which should not be used as justification for work to proceed as a necessary operation are:

- Policy alone justifies it.
- Other legislation justifies it (NB: if overriding Acts such as Special Agreement Act or the Mining Act are applied this does not constitute a use of S.33).
- Strong public opinion.

These points are provided for guidance. The decision making, at the appropriate level in the attached list, must concentrate on the criteria in the Act and on these alone. If you are in doubt you should refer the issue to the General Manager for guidance.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.

The likely environmental effects of necessary operations must be evaluated using the checklist provided.

LEVEL FOR APPROVAL

Refer to table provided as a guideline. The less routine the operation, and the greater the perceived environmental effects, the greater is the need for referral to Senior Management. Approval must be obtained before necessary operations are carried out.

WORKS PROGRAMME FOR APPROVED OPERATIONS

Works programmes, budgets and prescriptions for necessary operations are to be prepared at District/Park/Reserve level.

SUPERVISION AND MONITORING

All approved necessary operations must be effectively supervised. The effects must be monitored.

EXCEPTIONS

In cases of emergency, the requirement to safeguard human life (eg. visitors/neighbours/Departmental staff) overrides other considerations.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

18 July 1988

Distribution: Lists A,B,D,E & F

IMPACT EVALUATION CHECKLIST

1. NAME OF PARK, RESERVE, DISTRICT INVOLVED

LOCATION WITHIN RESERVE (block, etc)				
PRIMARY INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVE OF THE RESERVE				
2. THE WORK PROPOSED – PURPOSE				
TYPE & EXTENT OF THE WORK				
ANY OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE Specify				
4. IMPLICATIONS OF “DO NOTHING” OPTION OR POSTPONEMENT				
INSTRUCTION: Indicate with (✓) or (x) in Column (1) if proposed work is acceptable or not with respect to the environmental and management issues listed. If not acceptable, consider acceptability of modified proposal in column (2), or ‘do nothing’ option column (3). Use column (4) for additional comments.	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4] COMMENT Indicate action required to overcome/minimise adverse impact, or if no information is available to allow a decision.
ISSUE	✓ x	✓ x	✓ x	
1. GEOLOGY, SOILS, WATER				
1.1 Caves, fossils, dunes				
1.2 Soil erosion/soil damage				
1.3 Stream salinity, sediment, run off, drainage.				
2. FLORA, FAUNA AND ECOSYSTEMS				
2.1 Gazetted rare plants, restricted or unusual vegetation				
2.2 Population of fire sensitive species, wildflower display.				
2.3 Rare fauna, species habitats				
2.4 Stream, swamps, lakes, gorges, rock outcrops etc				

ISSUE	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]
3. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION				
3.1 Diseases (eg. Dieback, insects)				
3.2 Weeds, feral animals				
3.3 Requirements for gravel, rock, borrow pits				
3.3 Modify fire regime/patterns				
4. CULTURAL HERITAGE, SPECIAL VALUES				
4.1 Aboriginal sites				
4.2 European				
4.3 Special reference sites, research plots				
4.4 High value sites, (farms, settlements, plantations etc)				
5. RECREATION, ACCESS, OTHER USES				
5.1 Public access, re-direct public use				
5.2 Increase public misuse (eg. tracks degrade)				
5.3 Landscape, features, wilderness appreciation				
5.4 Visitor safety				
5.5 Increase demand for facilities and service (eg. rubbish disposal, toilets etc.)				
6. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS				
6.1 Can proposal pre-empt future Management Plan.				
6.2 Conflict with existing policy.				
6.3 Neighbours, local shires, community interests, Apiarists				
6.4 Fulfil legal requirements (eg Bushfires Act, etc)				
7. ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL.				
PROPOSER				Date
DISTRICT/ REGIONAL MANAGER ENDORSEMENT/COMMENT				Date
APPROVED/NOT APPROVED				Date

