

Operational policy

Community Relations and Partnerships

Naming of gifted or bequeathed property

Operational policies provide a framework for consistent application and interpretation of legislation and for the management of non-legislative matters by the Department of Environment and Science. Operational policies are not intended to be applied inflexibly in all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require a modified application of policy.

Policy issue

What is the policy of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) on the naming of gifted or bequeathed property?

Background

From time to time, the Department of Environment and Science (DES) is gifted or bequeathed property (i.e. land, with the intent that such land be conserved in perpetuity as a protected area) in order to help the Department advance nature conservation objectives within the State.

Such gifts or bequests are sometimes accompanied by a request for the area to bear the personal name of the benefactor.

Whilst personal names are not generally used for the formal naming of QPWS managed areas, such recognition would generally be appropriate in the case of gifted or bequeathed property that forms a part or section of a QPWS managed area. Also refer to *Operational policy - Names and naming of QPWS managed areas, places, sites and geographical features*.

Determination

The naming of whole QPWS managed areas must be in accordance with the *Operational policy - Names and naming of QPWS managed areas, places, sites and geographical features*.

However, the naming of gifted or bequeathed property that forms a part or section of a QPWS managed area may be informally assigned the personal name of the benefactor, subject to the approval of the relevant Departmental director.

On-site acknowledgement of this may take the form of a sign to QPWS standards bearing the benefactor's personal name and/or a small plaque explaining the person's connection to the area.

Other issues to consider

If the part or section of a QPWS managed area that is to be informally assigned the personal name of a benefactor has considerable public profile, the formal naming provisions outlined in the *Operational policy - Names and naming of QPWS managed areas, places, sites and geographical features* should be triggered to provide for an appropriate investigation, consultation and approval process to provide formal recognition of the name.

It is an offence under the *Place Names Act 1994* to publish or authorise the publication of an advertisement or a document in which a name that is not an approved name is represented as the place's name. However, this does not apply if it is made clear in the publication that the name is not the approved name of the place or the place does not have an approved name.

Human Rights Act 2019 compatibility

The department is committed to respecting, protecting and promoting human rights. Under the [Human Rights Act 2019](#), the department has an obligation to act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and, when making a decision, to give proper consideration to human rights. When acting or making a decision under this operational policy, officers must comply with that obligation (refer to [Comply with Human Rights Act](#)).

Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care, it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Department of Environment and Science should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

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Signature

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Date

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