

Guidelines for applicants

Access permit

Section 22 of the *Weeds Management Act*

What is a quarantine area?

Under section 21 of the *Weeds Management Act*, the Minister may declare an area of land to be a quarantine area for the purpose of preventing a declared weed from entering into, or to manage a declared weed in the Territory.

This declaration may impose restrictions on the movement of people, animals, vehicles, aircraft, boats, plants etc into or out of the quarantine area except in accordance with an access permit.

What is an "Access Permit"?

A person may apply to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) for an "Access Permit" to allow them entry into a quarantine zone for a specific purpose. An application fee may apply. An access permit is subject to the conditions endorsed on the permit.

What penalties apply for not complying with the Act or a permit?

An offence against this section of the Weeds Management Act is considered to be an Environmental Offence Level 3. Penalties range between \$5 000 & \$50 000 for a person, or \$25 000 & \$250 000 for a Corporation.

Why do I need a permit to access a quarantine area?

Declaring an area to be a quarantine area is paramount in containing the spread of weeds. Where a quarantine area impacts on a persons freedom to access land, it may be appropriate to allow a person to access such areas under strictly controlled conditions. For example, a quarantine area prohibits the movement of people or any object, including boats, vehicles and fishing equipment, into or out of a section of a river and the land adjacent to the water's edge, unless an appropriate permit has been obtained.

What does an application for an access permit need to contain?

Applications must be in writing, in the format approved by the Minister (as attached) and signed by the applicant(s).

The application is to include the following information:

- * full name, address and contact details of the applicant(s);
- * a clear description of the area of land subject to the quarantine order and reasons why an access permit is sought;
- * details of vehicles etc required to have access;
- * written approval of the landholder or proof of title or right to access the land;
- * dates permit required for;
- * the reason the permit is required;
- * the steps the applicant will take to ensure the risk of spreading the weed within or beyond the quarantine area.

Applicants must provide a map, or site plan, outlining the property to which access is required to in relation to the quarantine area boundaries. Applicants must provide reasonable justification for an access permit to be granted.

Note: An officer may grant, or refuse to grant, an access permit. The onus lies with the applicant to provide all information which may be required to process an application for an access permit. Please refer to the [Application for Access Permit](#) for further information.

Applications should be directed to:

Weed Management Branch
Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport
PO Box 496
PALMERSTON NT 0831