

Biodiscovery in Commonwealth areas: A guide to permit requirements



Further information

See our website at: www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access

or contact us at:

Genetic Resources Management Section

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For information about other permits that may be
required under Commonwealth environment law
visit: www.environment.gov.au/epbc/permits

How to apply for a permit

Permit applications can be completed on-line at
[www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/
access/permits/apply.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access/permits/apply.html)

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¹ Part 8A of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity
Conservation Regulations 2000

² Biological resources include genetic resources, organisms, parts
of organisms, populations and any other biotic component of an
ecosystem with actual or potential use or value to humanity.

³ Commonwealth areas include:

- marine protected areas that are managed by the
Commonwealth
- land-based reserves that are jointly managed by the
Commonwealth and traditional owners
- waters within the Australian exclusive economic zone
(excluding State waters)
- land owned by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth
agency
- external Territories and their coastal seas.





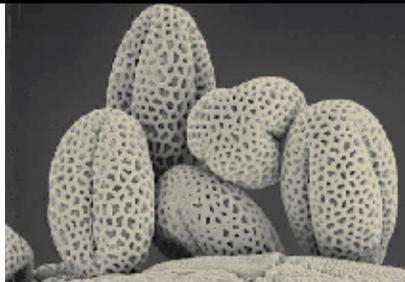
Biodiscovery in Commonwealth areas

A guide to permit requirements

The Australian Government encourages research into the genetic and biochemical makeup of native species. Biodiscovery is the foundation for development of new knowledge, medicines and industrial processes that benefit Australia's people and environment.

There are regulations¹ that set out a clear process for accessing biological resources in Commonwealth lands and waters. These regulations ensure resources are used in a sustainable way.

The system also provides for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of these resources, including with Indigenous people.



Certainty for researchers and business

Companies and others who invest in research must have legal certainty to ensure the security of their investment. The Government runs a permit system that lets researchers know exactly what is needed to comply with Australian law and with international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

When do you need a permit?

A permit is required to obtain access to biological resources² (including taking biological samples) in Commonwealth lands or waters³ for research and development. You may also need written permission to enter or undertake research in a Commonwealth area, particularly if your research is in a Commonwealth terrestrial or marine reserve. Our staff can help arrange this permission.

Australian Government permits only apply for Commonwealth areas. Separate arrangements apply in each state and territory.



For locations of Commonwealth areas visit:
www.environment.gov.au/erin/ert

For access to biological resources in state and territory areas visit:
www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/science/access

About the permit

Permits are issued for either non-commercial or commercial/potentially commercial research. Before a commercial/potentially commercial permit is issued a benefit-sharing agreement must be completed. Streamlined processes apply for non-commercial research.

Permit conditions require researchers to keep records of the samples they collect from Commonwealth areas and to forward samples on to third parties only with permission from the Commonwealth.

