

Scientific permit approval criteria

As a general principle, the department supports and encourages responsible scientific research in any discipline that falls under its jurisdiction, recognising the value of the potential knowledge to the understanding and management of the environment and our natural and cultural heritage.

All scientific permit applications are judged on their merits, which are balanced against the potential impact of carrying out the research. We do not refuse applications where the work has no direct benefit to park management as there may be broader community benefits that justify the research going ahead.

In assessing an application, consideration is given as to whether the application complies with a broad definition of scientific research, in that:

- the general aim of the project is to acquire new knowledge, or gain an increased understanding of existing knowledge
- the project aims and methodology follow accepted scientific principles
- it is based on gathering observable, verifiable and measurable evidence, and the formulation and testing of hypotheses
- it is primarily, but not exclusively, in the fields of natural and applied sciences.

Consideration will also be given to whether:

- the public, through the government, will receive due compensation for any income derived from the property of the Crown
- the results of the research will be fully documented and made publicly available or, if subject to commercial confidentiality agreements, aspects of the research deemed not to breach that confidentiality will be made publicly available.

The criteria used to assess the permit are the:

- scientific quality, including the clarity of the hypotheses or research objectives, and the strengths and weaknesses of the study design and feasibility
- significance and innovation of the research

- degree to which the project demonstrates collaboration with key stakeholder groups
- impact the research may have on the local population or species of wildlife being studied
- actual or potential impacts on the reserve in which the research is being conducted, including impacts on Aboriginal culture and heritage, and bio-security risks.

Research, surveys and sampling that has commercial gain as part or all of its motivation will be treated differently and, in some situations (e.g. mineral exploration) a different approval process may be followed under current legislation.

A permit is normally issued for each individual project so that specific conditions can be devised and monitored relative to the sites involved and methodologies used. General non-specific opportunistic collection permits will not be issued.

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Any scientific research conducted in a reserve proclaimed under the *SA National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* or *Crown Lands Management Act 2009* requires a permit irrespective of whether samples or specimens are collected.

The applicant must comply with any and all additional authorisations including obtaining the consent of landholders and relevant authorities, satisfying animal ethics requirements and acquiring other necessary permits and licences.

Further information

For enquiries, please contact:

Research Permits

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