

Appendix B: Fossicking site assessment template

Template for assessing future fossicking sites as General Permission Areas on QPWS managed areas.

Neighbouring properties	<<Yes/No>> include details below: Do they support the proposed activity? Consultation with neighbouring property holders is strongly recommended prior to opening the area to fossicking.
Other management issues (fire/camping/day use capacity future costs)	<<Yes/No>> include details below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day use only – camping is not permitted however private accommodation may be available at local townships. (Indicate if there is a designated QPWS carrying camp in close proximity). Include the standard fossicking conditions from QPWS. Site specific conditions. Compatibility with existing management plans. Signage costs. Increased use of area and upkeep. Staff presence, monitoring and enforceability.
RECOMMENDATION	<<Yes/No>> include details below: Details regarding the overall recommendation for the site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate areas that are excluded from activity with information as to why. Also specify any site-specific management concerns and justification for site specific conditions.

Map 1: Constraint mapping <<Attach a map of the area from either MapMaps or ColMaps or similar>>
Please indicate on the attached map (or attach a new map) where the proposed fossicking area will be.

Fossicking site assessment <<QPWS managed area name>> <<Bioregion name>> Bioregion

State forest/resources reserve name	<<Lock up using MapMaps or EcoMaps>>
Bioregion	Whole / Partial xxx km (Refer to map)
Area of proposal (hectares whole parcel or partial)	General Permission Area (GPA).
Existing category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known fossicking areas (advised by DNRM) surrounding activities. Frequently requested site.
Proposal justification	-- / / --
Date of report	<<Good/Bad>>
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to towns. Condition of roads/tracks (both off and on QPWS managed area). Waterways and crossings.
Compatibility	<<Good/Bad>> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriateness to setting (landscape classification system). Public interest (demand for the proposed activity, social/economic/tourism benefit) Conflicts with existing land use or rights within area. Surrounding tenure and land use.
Biodiversity values	<<Are there concerns>> include details below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant and endangered regional ecosystems. Species values. The presence of threatened species. The presence of key habitat for threatened species. Remnant vegetation. Water quality, soil type and quality and erosion susceptibility or soil loss. Compliance with management, conservation or recovery plans for specific species. Biodiversity significance at a State, regional and local level. Contribution to corridors of State and regional significance. Suitable topography.
Safety issues (known hazards)	<<Are there concerns>> include details below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known hazards (old mine workings/sink holes, flash flooding, landslides). Long term management issues (access, logging, fires, feral animal control/baiting).
OTHER IMPEDIMENTS/CONSIDERATIONS:	
Native title	<<Yes/No>> include details below: Are there any existing native title determinations and/or land use agreement. Include details below:
Cultural Heritage (Indigenous and European)	<<Yes/No>> include details below: <<EHP to investigate and advise type and conditions>>
Extractive uses (mining/husks/ting/quarrying)	<<Yes/No>> include details below: <<DNRM to investigate and advise for type and contract details>>
Forest Special Management Area	<<Yes/No>> include details below: <<QPWS/DAFF to investigate and advise type and conditions>>
Grazing lease	<<Yes/No>> include details below: <<QPWS/DAFF to investigate and advise for type and contract details>> Consultation with the grazing lessees must occur prior to opening the area to fossicking.
Apiary/Beekeeping	<<Yes/No>> include details below: <<DAFF to investigate and advise>>

Appendix C: Standard general conditions for fossicking on QPWS managed areas

- Fossicking must only occur within the general permission area as per the attached map.
- Fossickers must not enter private property.
- Use only safe working practices.
- Hand tools only are permitted (including metal detectors). Educator dredges, sluices, dry blowers or machinery of any other type are not permitted.
- The use of generators is not permitted.
- Do not interfere with or fossick within 10 metres of any stock, infrastructure or improvements (including but not limited to fences, water bores, pump equipment, telecommunication towers, electricity transmitting towers, and gas, oil, or water pipelines).
- Remain at least 100 metres from registered apiary sites (whether hives are present or not). Apiary sites are indicated by signage.
- Carry all water supplies. No permanent potable water supply is available, and no water may be taken from dams, water bores, pump equipment, etc.
- Ensure children are supervised by an adult at all times. Hazards include old workings.
- Leave gates as they are found (i.e. if gate is open – leave it open, if gate is closed, then open it to gain access then close immediately ensuring no animals pass through while open).
- Do not interfere with any vegetation, stock or wildlife.
- Keep noise and dust to a minimum.
- Where dogs are permitted, they must be on a lead and under control at all times. Dogs are not to cause nuisance, or annoy other visitors, stock or wildlife. All dog faeces must be removed from the area and disposed of legally.
- All rubbish (including organics) must be removed from the area and disposed of legally.
- As no ablution facilities are available, bury human toilet waste in a hole dug into the topsoil at least 10-15cm deep and 100m away from watercourses (or any body of water) or walking tracks. Please fill, cover and disguise the hole.
- Do not excavate at the toe of the bank of a stream or in a gully.
- Do not excavate an earth face or create overhangs on steep land or river banks.
- Ensure excavations do not exceed dimensions of 2 metres x 1 metre and a depth of 0.5 metre. Refill excavations immediately after use to make them safe for other visitors and stock and contour excavations to the surrounding land surface. Replace material that came from depth at depth, and replace surface material on the surface.
- Keep motor vehicles to formed roads and tracks only, and bring no other machinery.
- Fires are not permitted and should not be lit under any circumstances in a State forest or regional park (resource use area).
- Comply with any directions given by a sign or notice or by a QPWS or authorised officer.

Appendix D: Fossicking information sheet template

The highlighted text indicates where site specific regional input is required.

Talgai State Forest Fossicking Area

Department of Natural Resources and Mines

The Site

The State has now released sections of the Talgai State Forest as a general permission area for fossicking.

Access

The Talgai State Forest Fossicking Area is around 35km north-west of the city of Warwick. Fossickers should take the Cunningham Highway west from Warwick for 8km before turning right into Sandy Creek Road which turns into the Leyburn Cunningham Road and head to the town of Pratten (27km).

Passing through Pratten, take Macalister Street which turns into Margerets Street. Turn left into Big Hill Road which will take you straight through the Talgai State Forest.

Once inside the general permission areas, use only formed roads and tracks to access creek areas where alluvial deposits are found. General permission areas are marked clearly on the attached map.

Be aware that State forests are multiple use land types and fossickers must obey instructions from authorised officers and official signs. In addition to timber harvesting, many State forests are also allocated to purposes such as beekeeping, grazing and commercial mineral and gas extraction. Fossickers must not interfere with existing infrastructure or activities associated with such uses when utilising the State forest.

Fossickers must ensure they only fossick within the general permission area and do not enter lease areas when traversing the State forest.

A current mining authority exists within the boundaries of Talgai State Forest. This area is not included in the general permission area and fossickers must not undertake fossicking in this area.

Fossicking

Colours of gold can be obtained from alluvial sediments within stream channels, from gravel layers in low banks, or possibly from crevices in rock bays.

Panning is the simplest recovery method. The pan is filled with soil or gravel that has been sieved to remove the coarse fraction and water added. The material is mixed to slurry then the pan is gently tilted and rotated at the same time so that the over-flowing water carries off the lightest material. The pan is then swirled to spread out the residue containing the heavy material for close inspection.

Requirements

To fossick you need to hold a Fossickers Licence. Individual or family licences can be obtained for this area or for the whole of the State for periods between one and twelve months, with fees varying accordingly.

To obtain a Fossickers Licence, print and fill out the application form available at www.mines.industry.qld.gov.au/mining/fossicking-licences.htm, then contact your nearest Department of Natural Resources and Mines Regional or District Office, or visit a fossicking licence agent near you.

Licenses must comply with the code of conduct and conditions for entry and fossicking at all times.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available in Warwick at several motels, hotels and caravan parks. There are no facilities in Talgai State Forest and Fossickers Licences do not permit camping in this area.



- Items safe for other visitors and stock and be contoured to the surrounding land surface.
- Keep motor vehicles to formed roads and tracks only and bring no other machinery.
- Fires are not permitted and should not be lit under any circumstances in a State forest.
- Comply with any directions given by a sign or notice.

For further information:

- **The Mining Registrar**
Department of Natural Resources and Mines
Podium 2, Ground Floor
Cnr Main and Vulture Streets
Woolloongabba Qld 4117
(PO Box 1475 Coorparoo DC Qld 4151)
Telephone: (07) 3238 3733
www.mines.industry.qld.gov.au/mining/fossicking.htm
- **Southern Downs Regional Council**
64 Fitzroy Street
Warwick Qld 4370
(PO Box 26 Warwick Qld 4370)
Telephone: (07) 4657 0300
www.southerndowns.qld.gov.au/

Code of conduct and conditions

- To protect the area for the future and to minimise inconvenience to others:
 - Fossicking must only occur within the general permission area as per the attached map.
 - Fossickers must not enter private property.
 - Use only safe working practices.
 - Do not undermine a stream bank or earth face or create overhangs.
 - Hand tools only are permitted (including metal detectors). Eductor dredges, sluices, dty blowers or machinery of any other type are not permitted.
 - The use of generators is not permitted.
 - Do not interfere with or fossick within 10 metres of any stock, infrastructure or improvements (including but not limited to fences, water bores, pump equipment etc or obtain water from them, telecommunication towers, electricity transmitting towers and gas, oil, or water pipelines).
 - Remain at least 100 metres from registered apiary sites (whether hives are present or not). Apiary sites are indicated by signage.
 - Carry all water supplies. No permanent potable water supply is available, and no water may be taken from dams, water bores, pump equipment etc.
 - Ensure children are supervised by an adult at all times. Hazards include old workings.
 - Leave gates as they are found (ie if gate is open – leave it open, if gate is closed, then open it to gain access then close immediately ensuring no animals pass through while open).
 - Do not interfere with any vegetation, stock or wildlife.
 - Keep noise and dust to a minimum.
 - Ensure that dogs are on a lead and under control at all times. They are not to cause nuisance, or annoy other visitors, stock or wildlife. All animal faeces must be removed from the area and disposed of legally.
 - All rubbish (including organics) must be removed from the area and disposed of legally.
 - As no ablation facilities are available, bury human toilet waste in a hole dug into the topsoil at least 10-15cm deep and 100m away from watercourses (or any body of water) or walking tracks. Please fill, cover and disguise the hole.
 - Ensure excavations do not exceed dimensions of 2 metres x 1 metre and a depth of 0.5 metre. Refill excavations to make

Appendix E: DG Letter to Mining Registrar granting general permission for fossicking site/s template

(TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DG BRIEFING NOTE TO APPROVE NEW GPA FOR FOSSICKING)

Using the current MECS “DG letter” template¹: Complete the template using the following details as a guide:

Name and Address details of relevant Mining Registrar²

Dear <<SALUTATION>>

The Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (the department) has assessed <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area) >> to allow fossicking under section 27 of the *Fossicking Act 1994*.

In undertaking this assessment, the department has reviewed existing rights and interests such as grazing leases and mining interests on these lands and sought the advice of the holders of these interests regarding the proposed fossicking activities. As a consequence of this review, <<an area / number of areas>> within <<name of>> State forest <<has/have>> been identified as being available for future fossicking activities.

Therefore, I am writing to you, pursuant to section 28 of the *Fossicking Act 1994*, providing my general permission for fossicking to occur on the land within <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>> identified in attachment 1.

I note the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) will continue to be responsible for all compliance under the *Fossicking Act 1994* within the new fossicking areas, as well as ensuring that general fossicking conditions and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) specific conditions are adhered to.

QPWS has standard signage and fact sheets that will be used to provide information to the community regarding these new fossicking areas. I suggest the fact sheets be finalised and all signs be installed before any announcement by either QPWS or DNRM is made regarding the availability of these areas for fossicking. I have asked the department to liaise with you to ensure this occurs at the earliest opportunity.

I appreciate your assistance with this matter and should you have any further enquiries, please contact <<relevant Regional Director of the proposed fossicking area>>, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, on telephone <<contact phone number>>.

Yours sincerely

Dr John Glaister
Director-General

Attachment 1 Map – Fossicking opportunities in <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>>.

¹ A ‘DG letter’ template is not provided here as templates for MECS items are constantly being improved and updated. Please ensure that you use the current one as provided by the MECS system.

² NOTE: Mining Registrars are location based and their contact details can be found on the DNRM web site: <http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/mining/contacts.htm>

Appendix F: Briefing Note to Minister advising new GPA for fossicking

(TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MEDIA RELEASE – APPENDIX G)

Using the current MECS “Ministerial briefing note” template³: Complete the template using the following details as a guide:

SUBJECT:

Fossicking on <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>>.

TIMEFRAME:

Approval of this briefing note is required <<as soon as possible or by indicate specific timeframe if required>> to allow a joint media release between the Minister for National Parks, Sport and Racing and the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to declare parts of <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>> available for fossicking.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Minister:

- Approve the attached media release that fossicking will now be a permitted activity in parts of <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>> (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND/KEY ISSUES:

- Fossicking activities may occur on private freehold and leasehold lands across Queensland, subject to the consent of the owner.
- Fossicking activities are governed by the *Fossicking Act 1994* (FA), which is administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).
- NPSR and DNRM have worked together to review potential new fossicking sites within Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) managed areas.
- The Director-General NPSR has granted approval to the Mining Registrar <<insert which region>> on <<date>> to allow fossicking to occur within <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> (CTS: <<MECS number>>).
- Access to new fossicking areas is of great interest to fossickers.
- A review of existing interests on the land revealed <<insert impediments as identified in the assessment process e.g.: grazing, mining, beekeeping and other activities>> and subsequent correspondence sought the views of these parties and the <<insert the relevant departments eg Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry for apiaries and grazing, Environment and Heritage Protection for cultural heritage etc. >> on the proposal to allow fossicking.
- Following departmental consideration of the views from existing interest holders, <<an area / a number of areas>> were identified within <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area) >> that could support fossicking activities.
- NPSR has produced a map indicating the general permission areas for fossicking within <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> (**Attachment 2**).
- NPSR has produced a fact sheet, to be available through the NPSR website <<www.npsr.qld.gov.au>>, <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> fossicking area/s (**Attachment 3**).
- The fact sheet provides general information for the public, listing the conditions for using the land and delineates the general permission areas using features such as roads and GPS coordinates. This is considered workable as most fossickers use GPS units.
- Signage advising that fossicking activities are permitted within the <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> has been produced by NPSR and will be erected by staff at entrances to the <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area) >>.

³ A ‘MIN briefing note’ template is not provided here as templates for MECS items are constantly being improved and updated. Please ensure that you use the current one as provided by the MECS system.

- A Ministerial announcement that fossicking may commence in parts of <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area >> is recommended once signs indicating the general permission areas are installed. The installation of these signs is expected to occur in <<Month and Year signage will be installed>>.
- The license conditions proposed for fossicking within <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>> will:
 - maintain public safety; for example, restrict access to a forest during timber harvesting, and prohibit fires
 - minimise impacts on land and ecosystems, for example by not permitting camping, motorised machinery including generators and blowers, and restricting excavations to 0.5m depth
 - minimise conflicts with other land uses by requiring reasonable distances be kept from residences, infrastructure, stock and apiary sites and not allowing access to private land or mining lease areas.

CONSULTATION:

- Consultation commenced with <<List interested parties that were contacted for input regarding the proposed fossicking site eg: grazing lessees, mining tenement holders, DNRM, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, any regional departmental staff, Mining Registrar, etc>>.
- NPSR has set out the general permission areas based on its consultation. Areas within <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> have been restricted << list reasons for restrictions to certain areas eg: to avoid the Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board Fence and a departmental wild dog trapping area>>.
- Fossickers may desire access to some non-permission areas, however the fossicking areas have been allocated to minimise the potential for conflicts with other land uses and to restrict substantial land degradation that may be expected from unfettered access.

LEGISLATION:

- The Fossicking Act 1994 (FA) (Section 28) provides that a land owner may give the NRM mining registrar a general permission for fossicking to occur on the land.
- NPSR's Chief Executive gave a general permission to the NRM Mining Registrar for fossicking within <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> via (CTS <<MECS Reference>>).
- Fossicking licenses, compliance monitoring and enforcement are provided for, under the FA by DNRM.

KEY COMMUNICATION MESSAGES:

- A media statement by Minister <<Dickson>> and quoting the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is recommended.
- The attached draft media release has been prepared in consultation with NPSR's and DNRM's media and communications teams (**Attachment 1**).

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Attachment 1:** Draft media announcement of new fossicking areas in <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>>
- **Attachment 2:** Map of <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>> indicating the general permission area(s) for fossicking.
- **Attachment 3:** <<Name of State Forest/ Regional Park (resource use area)>> fact sheet with information and conditions for fossicking licence holders.

Appendix G: QPWS Draft Ministerial media release

(TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BRIEFING NOTE TO MIN ADVISING NEW GPA FOR FOSSICKING – APPENDIX F)

NOTE: The NPSR Media Unit is the lead unit for all media releases. Contact and liaise closely with the Media Unit for details, format and templates for the new Media Release. This includes giving access to the MECS “Ministerial briefing note”, so that the Media Unit can contribute to the media release and the briefing note information.

The following is a guide only as each media release will be different and include site specific information as requested by the Media Unit.

SUBJECT:

Fossicking areas released on <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>>.

Licensed fossickers can now search for gems and minerals on defined areas of <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> <<Location of area from main town eg: west of Warwick>>.

<<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> is on the <<name of major road/highway>> <<details of distance eg: 27km west of Warwick or 35km north-west of Warwick near the town of Pratten>>.

National Parks Minister <<Steve Dickson>> and Natural Resources and Mines Minister <<Andrew Cripps>> said the Government departments have been working closely to identify locations with high fossicking potential and where increased access would not compromise forest harvesting activities, the rights of existing users or areas of habitat value.

Following assessment of existing interests and uses on these lands we have released <<number of fossicking areas>> fossicking areas on <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> comprising a combined area of almost <<5500>> hectares.

There are now <<total number of GPAs>> general permission areas or GPAs on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service-managed areas where licensed fossickers can carry out this popular pursuit.

<<Tenure type eg: State forests/regional park (resource use area)>> are multiple-use areas, and QPWS had taken into account existing grazing, mining, bee-keeping and other uses at <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>> in making the decision to declare these new general permission areas.

In common with fossicking elsewhere in Queensland, fossicking on the <<State forest/regional park (resource use area) >> is only permitted within the general permission areas, and only hand tools, including metal detectors, are allowed.

QPWS has installed information signage at entry points about the obligations of fossickers under their licence. Fossickers will be responsible for their own safety and not harming the environment or other forest users’ interests. For example, they must observe a 100-metre exclusion area around beekeeping sites.

As there are no facilities on the <<Name of State Forest/Regional Park (resource use area)>>, camping under fossicking licences will not be permitted. There is camping and accommodation in nearby towns, and visitors who come to fossick will assist in boosting these local economies.

Fossicking is a fun hobby and a great family activity, and we are looking at other State forest and regional park (resource use area) to see whether this recreational opportunity can be offered elsewhere.

A fossicker's licence is required, and maps showing the areas where fossicking is permitted are available from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

Fossicking is permitted subject to the terms and conditions specified in the licence and information sheet for each area.

The provisions of the <<Depending on tenure: *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Forestry Act 1959*>> and *Fossicking Act 1994* apply, and on-the-spot fines may be issued for offences.

Officers from the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines will continue to work together to identify new opportunities for fossicking on other State forests across the State, with further releases expected in the future.

More information regarding fossicking can be found at www.npsr.qld.gov.au and www.nrm.qld.gov.au

ENDS

[add date]

Appendix H: Generic fossicking signs

For fossicking areas within State Forests use sign reference number Si4691:

Fossicking area

Fossicking is permitted in this State forest general permission area(s).

- A Fossickers Licence is required.
- Maps showing the areas where fossicking is permitted are available from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Fossicking is permitted subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Fossickers Licence and listed on the information sheet available at <www.nprsr.qld.gov.au>.
- The provisions of the *Forestry Act 1959* and *Fossicking Act 1994* apply. On the spot fines may be issued for offences.

Please be responsible for your safety and the forest.

Queensland Government

For fossicking areas within regional park (resource use area) use sign reference number Si4692:

Fossicking area

Fossicking is permitted in this resources reserve general permission area(s).

- A Fossickers Licence is required.
- Maps showing the areas where fossicking is permitted are available from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Fossicking is permitted subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Fossickers Licence and listed on the information sheet available at <www.nprsr.qld.gov.au>.
- The provisions of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, *Mineral Resources Act 1989* and *Fossicking Act 1994* apply. On the spot fines may be issued for offences.

Please be responsible for your safety and the environment.

Queensland Government