



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 55

COMMERCIAL FILMING

May 2026

1. OBJECTIVE

To support commercial filming that promotes community awareness, understanding and support for nature conservation, land management, cultural heritage and significance, in a manner that is consistent with the purpose for which the land is vested or managed.

2. SCOPE

Commercial filming (including photography and encompassing all mediums or formats) on lands and waters managed by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions requires approval through a licence, permit and/or lawful authority. This policy provides direction and guidance on how the department administers applications for commercial filming under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

The policy applies to CALM Act land – the land and waters to which the CALM Act applies, including caves and parts of caves on or under that land (the same as CALM land referred to in the CALM regulations).

3. CONTEXT

With an increasing awareness of the environment worldwide, there has been a corresponding increase in interest in filming and photographing the natural environment on lands and waters managed by the department. These lands and waters contain a wide range of features that are of interest to commercial filmmakers and photographers.

Commercial filming on lands and waters managed by the department can make a significant contribution towards helping to raise awareness of conservation issues and promoting the appreciation and use of parks and reserves and the department's objectives. However, there is a need to ensure that the activities of those undertaking commercial filming do not impact on environmental and culture and heritage values, conflict with the enjoyment of other users, incorrectly present information or promote inappropriate behaviour.

The protection of natural, cultural, heritage and landscape values are key considerations when the department assesses applications for commercial filming. The way an area is portrayed in the final film product can impact these values. It is therefore important that filmmakers and photographers consult with the department before commercially filming on CALM Act land, and that the department has procedures in place to ensure the protection of an area's acknowledged values.

Commercial filming is defined in [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#).

This policy is to be read and applied together with [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#).

4. LEGISLATION

CALM Act

Section 33 of the CALM Act states that the CEO of the department is responsible for the conservation and protection of flora and fauna throughout the State, and the promotion and facilitation of public recreation on lands and waters to which the Act applies.

Regulation 94(1) of the CALM Regulations enables the CEO to grant a licence to any person to sell goods or services, or to undertake an activity for a commercial purpose, on an area of CALM Act land. Part 7 of the CALM Regulations sets out how licences are to be granted.

Under regulation 108, a person is required to obtain lawful authority to take any still or motion pictures by photographic or electronic means on CALM Act land if the pictures are to be used for commercial purposes. Regulation 4(1) enables the CEO to authorise, by written notice, a person to do an act that would, but for that notice, be unlawful under the regulations.

5. POLICY

- 5.1 Any commercial filming as defined in the context section of this policy and [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#) on CALM Act land will require lawful authority. The department may grant lawful authority for commercial filming in accordance with this policy.
- 5.2 Commercial filming on CALM Act land may be subject to payment of fees, charges or remuneration of costs in accordance with [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#).
- 5.3 The department may waive any fees, charges or remuneration of costs for commercial filming applications on CALM Act land if the application meets the criteria described in [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#).
- 5.4 Commercial filming applications that include subjects dealing with Aboriginal culture and heritage shall only be approved by the department conditional on the applicant obtaining written approval of the relevant Aboriginal group maintaining custody of that material, or where deemed necessary by the department, after sighting the written approval in accordance with [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#).
- 5.5 The department may refuse any application or otherwise determine the location, time and frequency of any proposed commercial filming at its discretion for reasons including, but not limited to, the area being environmentally sensitive and unable to support the activities or having an unacceptable risk of spreading pathogens or weeds; the activities unduly disrupting other visitors or users; fire risk; or impact on Aboriginal culture and heritage values.

6. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 6.1 Commercial filming applications will be administered in accordance with [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#). Departmental staff and commercial filming applicants may also reference [Corporate Policy Statement No. 18: Recreation, Tourism and Visitor Services](#), [Corporate Policy Statement No. 25: Protect and Conserve Aboriginal Cultural Heritage](#) and the department's Commercial Filming and Photography Handbook.

- 6.2 Nature-based Tourism Division will administer applications for commercial filming on CALM Act land, in conjunction with Regional and Fire Management Services Division.
- 6.3 Nature-based Tourism Division will maintain the Commercial Operator Licensing System which is used to administer commercial filming applications on CALM Act land, as outlined in [Corporate Guideline No. 20: Commercial Filming](#).

7. CUSTODIAN

Executive Director Nature-based Tourism.

8. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's internet and intranet.

9. KEY WORDS

Filming; photography; commercial filming; commercial photography.

10. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no later than May 2029.

11. DIRECTOR GENERAL APPROVAL

Approved by



Stuart Smith
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Effective date: 19/5/26