

Moreton Bay Research Station (MBRS) Community Management

1. Scope

The Community Management Program is applicable to all staff, students and visitors to the Moreton Bay Research Station while on Stradbroke Island.

2. Objectives

- To ensure The University of Queensland acts as a responsible member of the greater Stradbroke Island Community;
- To minimise disturbance to neighbours and the community through day to day operations, services and social activities run at and from and at MBRS;
- To minimise the impacts of large groups staying at MBRS on local services;
- To maintain the aesthetic values of MBRS and minimise the effects on neighbouring properties; and
- To make staff, students and visitors aware of cultural heritage values and eliminate any potential impact upon these values.

3. Community Management Issues

3.1 *Noise*

MBRS is required to comply with all relevant noise legislation, namely the requirements under the Environmental Protection Act (1994). Details on acceptable noise levels for specific activities are outline in the Noise Program (Section 8).

Not excluding any of the detail in Section 8, no noise generated at MBRS shall impact on the research station's neighbours after 10.00pm and before 6.00am.

Police will respond to all noise complaints.

3.2 *Lighting*

To minimise the impact of spill lighting (light shining from MBRS into neighbouring properties), all activities are to stop and lights out (excepting security lighting) by 10.00pm.

3.3 Aesthetics

MBRS must be kept clean and tidy at all times. Clothes shall be dried on the clothes lines provided. All equipment shall be stored in appropriate areas. No clothing or equipment is to be left on or near the fence lines or against the buildings (unless otherwise directed).

3.4 Travelling in Large Groups

As Stradbroke Island is a relatively quiet area people moving in large groups can be intimidating to members of the community and can disrupt normal services.

3.4.1 Travelling to and from the Island

Water-taxis are the major transport route to and from Stradbroke Island. Many of the island's residents rely on the taxis as a regular service for day-to-day living. The number of persons any one taxi can carry is limited. If a large group is travelling at one time, it may displace island residents who require this service.

To allow water-taxi services to continue to supply service to the Stradbroke Community and ensure that requirements of MBRS's users are satisfied, supervisors of large groups (more than 30 people) shall contact the water-taxi service *before* the day of travel. The operators should be supplied with the number of people and the intended time of arrival at the group's destination (Stradbroke Island and/or mainland). The operators can then advise on the best time to travel (it may require the group to be split or a chartered boat could be used). In some cases, groups may be split between two vessels and one group may have to travel earlier than intended to limit the impact.

3.4.2 Walking around the Island

Due to the quiet nature of Stradbroke Island large groups are unfamiliar and can be intimidating to local residents. When walking around the townships large groups shall be broken up into groups of no more than 10 people.

3.4.3 Use of Island Facilities

Island Facilities, and Visitor and Information Centres have not been designed to cater for large groups. If all members of a group require information or services from the same source, representatives from the group should be selected and only the representatives shall visit the facility.

Commonly required information from the island services is also stocked by MBRS. Confirm with the manager of MBRS that the information required is not held on site before visiting island information centres.

3.5 Cultural Heritage

Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay and the bay islands are significant cultural sites for the traditional landowners. MBRS users are not to negatively impact on these sites in any way. Many culturally significant areas are free to be used in a non-destructive manner. However some sites require approvals and permits while others are off limits under any circumstances. Culturally significant areas are not signposted or marked on maps so as to not encourage excessive visitors to these sites.

To ensure researchers and users of MBRS are not impacting on cultural heritage areas, the following procedure is to be followed.

3.5.1 Working in Culturally Significant Sites

Before commencing any research activities, researchers must, if appropriate, lodge a permit with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) seeking permission to proceed within certain areas. Any queries as to what needs permits should be directed to the EPA.

In addition to any approvals sought through the EPA, all research work must be registered with the MBRS manager. Work should be registered a minimum of 30 days prior to commencing. The manager is aware of some culturally significant and non-significant areas and can approve activities *if* they are similar to other activities conducted in that area in the past or are not proposed for a culturally significant location. In cases where the proposed activities differ from previous activities or the manager is unfamiliar with the area in which activity is to be conducted, they will make contact with the traditional owners and seek permissions on the user's behalf. The user should supply all requested and relevant information to the MBRS manager to allow permissions to be given. Deliberately misleading or giving false information may result in the permission being cancelled.

If Aboriginal, archaeological or historical sites, items or remains are discovered - cease activity and contact MBRS management and/or the EPA's Regional Cultural Heritage Manager on (07) 3225 8426

3.5.2 Information on Cultural Heritage

Some printed information exists on cultural heritage in limited numbers. MBRS will stock some of this information. There are various sources of information on the island so check with the MBRS manager before approaching the Island's information centres to determine if the information is already available and, if not, where is the appropriate place to seek it. Visits to information centres shall be conducted in accordance with other procedures in this document.

Alternatively, for a fee, a member of the traditional owners can come and speak with groups about the significance of Moreton Bay and the bay islands. This should be booked in advance. Contact the MBRS manager for more information.

3.6 Alcohol

Alcohol is only permitted at MBRS under the University of Queensland Alcohol Policy. Permits to Consume alcohol must be gained from MBRS and Security at the St Lucia Campus *before* coming to the island. Any alcohol bought to MBRS without permits will be confiscated.

Licensed facilities are available across the island and may be patronised by the users of MBRS.

3.7 Community Interaction

Often the activities being undertaken by users of the MBRS will be unfamiliar to the Stradbroke Island community. Residents are used to particular areas of the island being used in particular ways and often have a keen interest in ensuring that there is no misuse or mismanagement of their community.

If any staff member, researcher, student or any other user of the MBRS is questioned by a member of the public, either at the MBRS site or in the field, offer as much information as possible to explain where you are from and what you are doing. If the member of the public objects to your activities after an explanation has been given, and is not vexatious, and if you do not have express permissions or permits to carry out the activity, cease whatever activity is underway. Take contact details from the objector and return to MBRS and see the manager about how to proceed.

Once a solution has been reached contact the member of public to inform them of the actions to be taken.

3.8 Parking

MBRS shares the surrounding vehicle access routes with all other users of Stradbroke Island. For more information on parking and general use of vehicles refer to the Boating and Motor Vehicle operating procedure.

4. Feedback on Community Issues

The manager of MBRS meets with Stradbroke Island Community Group Representatives on a regular basis. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Land council;
- Elders;
- Quandamooka Land and Sea Management Association (QALSMA);
- Noonucal Cultural Heritage Corporation;
- Stradbroke Island Management Organisation (SIMO);
- Friends of Stradbroke Island (FOSI); and
- Moreton Bay Alliance.

At these meetings, community concerns with the operation of MBRS can be raised. MBRS will also make known activities being undertaken by the research station over the next period.

Concerns raised can be addressed by MBRS staff (if possible) or referred to the appropriate University staff.

5. Benefits to the Community

MBRS and the University of Queensland will be an active member in the Stradbroke Island Community. MBRS has an open door policy and encourages people to visit the station to see what is being undertaken.

MBRS also conducts monthly talks by researchers who have been conducting work in the local area and these are open to members of the general public.

6. Responsibilities

Responsibilities for management of community issues lie with everyone at MBRS. Table 1 outlines these specific responsibilities.

Table 1. Community Management Responsibilities

Responsible Person	Duties
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Users (Students, researchers, staff, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure awareness and understanding of the community issues associated with their activities at MBRS, Moreton Bay and the bay islands. • To act responsibly and adhere to the procedures outlined in this procedure.
Manager, Moreton Bay Research Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure facilities and materials are available to limit the impact on the community and to allow compliance with this procedure. • Identification and review of new and existing community issues and updating the program on an annual basis.

7. Records

The Property and Facilities Division or the Manager, Moreton Bay Research Station hold all documents issued and kept in respect to the Community Management Program. The term documents for the purpose of this program includes the following:

- Operational Procedures;
- Checklists;
- Notes;
- Letters;
- Reports and Registers.

8. Enquiries

For further information regarding cultural management contact the Manager, Moreton Bay Research Station.