

Heron Island Research Station (HIRS) Community Management

1. Scope

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

2. Objectives

- To ensure The University of Queensland acts as a responsible member of the greater Heron Island Community;
- To minimise disturbance to neighbours, native flora and fauna, and the community through day to day operations, services and social activities run at and from HIRS;
- To minimise the impacts of large groups staying at HIRS on local services;
- To maintain the aesthetic values of HIRS and minimise the effects on neighbouring properties.

3. Community Management Issues

3.1 *Noise*

HIRS 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 HIRS shall impact on the research station's neighbours after 10.00pm and before 7.00am.

3.2 *Lighting*

To minimise the impact of spill lighting (light shining from HIRS likely to affect native wildlife), all activities likely to disturb wildlife are to stop and all unnecessary lights will be turned out (excepting security lighting) by 10.00pm.

3.3 *Aesthetics*

HIRS must be kept clean and tidy at all times. All equipment shall be stored in appropriate areas.

3.4 Travelling in Large Groups

3.4.1 Travelling to and from the Island

The P&O passenger ferry is the major transport route to and from Heron Island.

Supervisors shall contact HIRS well *before* the day of travel. HIRS should be supplied with the names, number of people and day of travel.

3.5 Alcohol

Alcohol can only be supplied for functions at HIRS and is only permitted at HIRS under the University of Queensland Alcohol Policy. Permits to Consume alcohol must be gained from HIRS Station Manager (delegated University Permit Officer) *before* coming to the island. Any alcohol brought to HIRS without permits may be confiscated.

3.6 Community Interaction

Often the activities being undertaken by users of the HIRS will be unfamiliar to the Heron Island Resort community. Please refer to the Research Station / P&O Resort – Visitor Protocol information sheet available from HIRS staff.

If any staff member, researcher, student or any other user of the HIRS is questioned by a member of the public, either at the HIRS 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 HIRS 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.

4. Feedback on Community Issues

The Manager of HIRS meets with the Island Management Committee on a regular basis. Feedback is also received through phone calls from the Heron Island Resort.

5. Benefits to the Community

HIRS has an open door policy and encourages people to visit the station to see what is being undertaken. It is involved with the Junior Ranger Program, helping with the barge, and allows tours on site.

6. Responsibilities

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

Table 1. Community Management Responsibilities

Responsible Person	Duties
Users (Students, researchers, staff, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure awareness and understanding of the community issues associated with their activities at HIRS, and the Great Barrier Reef.• To act responsibly and adhere to the procedures outlined in this

	procedure.
Manager, Heron Island 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 Heron Island Management Committee hold all documents issued and kept in respect to the Community Management. 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, contact the Manager, Heron Island Research Station.