

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Macleay Area**

Wedding Ceremonies – Information Sheet



General Information

This sheet provides information for wedding ceremonies proposed on NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) managed land in the Macleay Area – Mid North Coast Region.

A consent approval is required from the NPWS to conduct a wedding ceremony within a national park. The issuing of consent enables the NPWS to monitor the use of areas under its management to ensure that conservation and recreation values are protected.

Standard conditions apply to all wedding ceremonies conducted on NPWS estate. Special conditions may also apply to some wedding ceremonies. These will be determined following the receipt of the wedding application form.

Standard Conditions

Indemnity

The applicant is required to indemnify and keep indemnified the Minister, the Director-General, the Government of New South Wales and their agents, servants, contractors and employees against all actions, suits, claims and demands, costs, charges and expenses in respect of any death or injury to a person or property or any loss or damage by reason of anything done or omitted by the applicant in connection with the applicants activities or any of the provisions of the wedding consent.

Review of Consent Agreements

The NPWS Macleay Area reserves the right to review wedding consent approvals, associated conditions and arrangements if circumstances change or require it. Examples may include where a fire danger exists, where there are concerns regarding a cultural or environmentally sensitive area or where unforeseen circumstances arise which present immediate threats to habitat, wildlife or public safety.

Use of Location

Wedding ceremonies are not granted exclusive use of the wedding location and at times other reserve visitors may be present at the wedding location. Most visitors really enjoy seeing weddings and respect your special day: especially if you keep the music soft and do not impede their use of the site (eg by roping off areas).

In addition: we do not have control of events on the water as the road and boat launching ramp at Arakoon National Park are public access. This is why we don't recommend weddings on the beach as regattas and many water events are held, some with short notice.

No marquee, tent or other temporary structure is to be erected and used in the wedding ceremony unless authorised in writing by the Area Manager prior to the ceremony.

If it is necessary for the applicant to change the location of the wedding ceremony due to unfavourable weather, the nominated NPWS Officer is required to be notified as soon as possible.

Confetti

There is to be no throwing of confetti or rice, as we cannot remove it. The release of butterflies is illegal in National Parks. You may use flower petals.

Additional responsibilities of the applicant:

- comply with any special conditions imposed by the NPWS. Copies of any special conditions if applicable will be provided by NPWS at the time approval is granted;
- obey any reasonable directions of any NPWS Officer relating to the wedding on the national park and accept that in the event of a dispute the decision of the authorised NPWS Officer will be final;
- ensure that no flora, fauna, natural or cultural features, or public or recreational facilities and developments are disturbed or damaged in any way;
- ensure that vehicles only use the roads and parking areas normally available to the public;
- ensure that no structure, fixtures or signs are erected within the national park, or no permanent marking is made to any tree, plant or rock in the reserve without the prior written consent of the Area Manager;
- ensure no equipment or material is used within the park without the prior written consent of the Area Manager;
- ensure that no animals are brought into the national park; and
- ensure that the location is returned to its former state after the completion of the wedding.

Fees

A NON REFUNDABLE consent fee of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300) inclusive of GST applies to wedding ceremonies conducted on NPWS estate within Arakoon National Park and Hat Head National Park.

An additional security deposit of a Cheque for ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150) made out to Arakoon National Park also applies to the wedding ceremony. This cheque will be held and destroyed after the event providing the consent conditions are adhered to.

For weddings inside the Gaol an additional fee of \$5.00 per person over five years of age is applicable. This fee can be paid closer to the date as confirmation of RSVP's.

Park use fees apply to the use of Hat Head National Park at Smoky Rest Area and Hungry Head. The fee is \$7.00 per vehicle per day for private vehicles which do not have a current annual pass displayed on the vehicle. Park use fees associated with a wedding ceremony can be paid in advance prior to the event.

Granting of Approval

Approval for a wedding ceremony to take place on the reserve is granted when all relevant fees are paid, and the Wedding Ceremony Consent has been signed by an authorised NPWS Officer and the applicant. A consent is forwarded following receipt of the Wedding Application.

NPWS Arakoon National Park Centre Manager can be contacted by phone: (02) 6566 - 6419 or Fax: (02) 6566 - 6507 to discuss details concerning intended wedding ceremonies within a national park area.