Interaction plan

Wildlife (Animals)

Interaction plan template

To obtain an interaction licence from the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (the Act), you are required to submit an interaction plan for approval which outlines the arrangements you have or will put in place to manage this activity. An outline of the information required in the plan is provided in the template below. Please provide sufficient information to enable an assessment to be made.

The interaction plan is not a licence. If the chief executive approves your interaction plan, you will still require an interaction licence to engage in the interaction. If you obtain a licence, you will be required to comply with your interaction plan.

If you use this template, you may submit your application for a licence at the same time. If you choose to use a different format, you will need to have the interaction plan approved before submitting your application for a licence. Additionally, it will be necessary for you to provide statements that address all the information requirements identified in this template. A professional specialising in the management of wildlife may need to be consulted when completing this form.

# Applicant name:

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| --- |
|  |

# Activity location: (Note: a separate plan is required for each activity)

|  |
| --- |
| Address, and lot and registered plan number for where activity will take place: |

1. **Species:** (Include targeted and any likely incidental species)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Indicate if the animal is known to be:** | | |
| **Dangerous** | **Venomous** | **Type of potential injuries**  **(e.g. scratches or bites)** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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Please note that it is prohibited under the Act to feed species that are dangerous, venomous, or capable of injuring a person, and a licence is not available in relation to these species.

1. **Description of activity:** (Provide relevant responses to the following statements)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4.1 | What types of interaction are you planning to engage in?  How will the interaction be conducted, and by whom?  Please provide detailed information on a separate sheet if necessary. |  |
| 4.2 | Do you have any public liability insurance that protects you in the event that people are injured while participating in the wildlife interaction you propose? | Yes  No  If yes, please attach a copy of the insurance policy and provide details: |
| 4.3 | Interacting with wildlife can be dangerous, both to wildlife and people participating in the activity. There may be certain things you could do to minimise the likelihood of harm occurring.  How do you intend to manage the activity to ensure risks to wildlife and people are minimised?  Note: risks can include stings, bites, scratches, and blows. |  |
| 4.4 | Some animals may carry zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted from animal to humans).  For example, diseases such as the highly contagious psittacosis and psittacine beak and feather syndrome can be spread by contact, feather dander, saliva, or droppings.  What measures are you proposing to take that will minimise the likelihood of the spread of any zoonotic disease? |  |
| 4.5 | If your activity involves the feeding of wildlife, provide details on the proposed: |  |
|  | 1. anticipated numbers to be fed; and | (a) |
|  | 1. food/diet type and amount; | (b) |
|  | 1. regularity of feeding and time of day; | (c) |
|  | 1. exit strategy to ensure there are no adverse impacts to dependant wildlife if/when the activity ceases. | (d) |
| 4.6 | How do you intend to ensure the likelihood of illness to wildlife is minimised?  For example, what are your arrangements for cleaning the feeding containers, and/or the feeding area? |  |
| 4.7 | Attracting wildlife to feeding sites can create human health and safety hazards e.g. wildlife may cross a highway or approach your premises potentially causing a traffic hazard.  Does your proposed activity cause the animal to move from the place where it is located to the place where you will provide the food in a way in which the movement of the animal results in danger to human health and safety? | Yes  No  If yes, please provide further information and give details of how this hazard will be eliminated. |
| 4.8 | Please enclose a site plan identifying the place where you intend to conduct your activity, the location of the animals roosting/breeding sites and any hazards that wildlife may have to negotiate between the activity site and their roosting/breeding site. | Have you attached a site plan?  Yes  No |

# Wildlife management issues:

# (Provide statements addressing the consideration of the following issues)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5.1 | Interacting with wildlife may cause changes in animal behaviour. It may, for example, interfere with animal migratory behaviour, change the animal’s abundance in the immediate area or reduce the need for the animal to forage.  For example, a large concentration of the more aggressive feeders such as currawongs, crows or magpies may promote fighting, territorial disputes, and displacement of less aggressive species.  Are there any foreseeable impacts on the behaviour or conservation of animals in the local area resulting from your activity? | Yes  No  If yes, please provide further information. |
| 5.2 | Your interaction plan outlines your intention to interact with a particular species of animal. Is it likely that any other species will also become involved with this activity?  For example, feeding may attract large numbers of common brushtail possums. This could then result in other species of arboreal mammals or birds having difficulty competing for scarce resources such as nest hollows with such a super-abundant and aggressive rival.  If yes, what species do you think may become involved and how do you intend to manage the issue? | Yes  No  If yes, please provide further information. |
| 5.3 | From time to time, an animal that is sick or injured may be encountered as part of your activity.  For example, a pelican that presents itself with fishing hooks and tackle entanglement.  In the event that this occurs, what are your arrangements for having the animal assessed and treated by an appropriately skilled person (e.g. a local veterinary surgeon, wildlife carer)? |  |

**Please note:** Feeding or otherwise interacting with wildlife may cause unforeseen problems (i.e. wildlife may become a danger or nuisance to people as a result). Should this occur, the department expects licence holders to take all reasonable steps to manage this impact.

If the problem is not resolved adequately, the chief executive may take this into consideration when assessing a new application.

# Consultation (Provide the following information)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 6.1 | Please provide written notice from the local government in the area where you propose to undertake your activity stating that what you are proposing to do complies with all relevant local laws. | Is written confirmation attached?  Yes  No |
| 6.2 | There are a number of environmental and nuisance laws that you must comply with. These include noise, odour, waste management and water quality.  Have you sought advice from your relevant government authority that your activity will be in compliance with environmental and nuisance laws? | Yes  No  If yes, please attach details. |
| 6.3 | Are there any likely impacts on your neighbours or adjoining landholders arising from your activity? | Yes  No |
|  | In the event that your activity has impacts on adjoining landholders, what steps do you intend to take to mitigate the problem? | If yes, please provide further information. |
| 6.4 | If your activity causes any dispute, you will be required to resolve the matter with the complainant.  Are you willing to engage in dispute resolution to resolve the issue? | Yes  No |
| 6.5 | Are you the landholder of where the proposed activity will be undertaken?  Note: Landholders may include owners, lessees, trustees, easement rights holders, etc. | Yes - go to section 7.1  No |
| 6.6 | Have you obtained landholder statements signed by each landholder that grant you access to the activity location? | Yes – completed landholder statements (Appendix A) attached.  No – do not proceed with this application until landholder statements have been obtained. |

1. **Education:** (Provide details of the proposed activity in relation to the following)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 7.1 | What information will be delivered to the clients at each interaction session? |  |
|  | (a) activities occurring under an approved interaction plan; | Yes  No |
|  | (b) information about the ecological role of the wildlife; and | Yes  No |
|  | (c) education and conservation of the wildlife. | Yes  No |
|  | Attach examples or details of the information that will be delivered. |  |
| 7.2 | Provide a copy of any promotional materials. Key messages and/or signage associated with the activity. | Are promotional materials and/or copies of signage attached?  Yes  No |

# Record keeping requirements if a licence is granted.

**Please note:** If you are granted a licence, you will need to keep records.

These records must include the following information about the activities carried out under the licence.

1. Any identified problems or concerns relating to the activities, including, for example –
   1. any increase in illness or injury in the animals the subject of the activities

and

* 1. any incidence of aggression by animals the subject of the activities against the holder’s clients participating in the activities

and

* 1. any complaint by a member of the public about the impact of the activities

1. How the problems or concerns mentioned in paragraph (a) were identified and resolved.

**Records must be available for inspection if asked by a Conservation Officer.**

Please acknowledge the following by checking the box:

I am aware that should an interaction licence be approved; I must keep records of issues or problems encountered during wildlife interaction activities, including how the problems or concerns were identified and resolved. Records must be made available for inspection if asked by a Conservation Officer.

# Checklist

The checklist below identifies the supporting documents you need to provide to enable assessment of your interaction plan. You are required to attach all information on the checklist unless it is not relevant to your operation.

Insurance policy

Site plan

Local authority confirmation that the activity complies with relevant local laws

Copies of any permits or licences required by local authorities

Examples or details of educational information that will be delivered

Acknowledgement of record keeping requirements

Written permission from landholder of property (if relevant)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant’s name:** |  |
| **Applicant’s signature:** |  |
| **Applicant’s position:** |  |
| **Date:** |  |

**Appendix A: Landholder Statement**

Important information

Each landholder for land where the proposed interaction activity is to be untaken are requested to complete a landholder statement. Note: Landholders may include owners, lessees, trustees, easement rights holders, etc. A landholder statement is not required by the licence applicant.

This form provides assurance that the applicant of the interaction licence, has approval from the landholder to lawfully enter the land for the purposes of a commercial interaction with an authorised animal in the wild. The landholder, at any time, may withdraw consent to the interaction licence holder to enter the land.

**Landholder name(s)**

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| --- |
| Landholder name(s): |

**Contact person’s details**

|  |
| --- |
| Position: |
| Full postal address: |
| Telephone:  (      ) |
| Email: |

Land description

|  |
| --- |
| Lot number(s) |
| Plan number(s) |
| Local authority |

**Landholder certificate**

|  |
| --- |
| I,  (printed name of tenement holders) |

authorise that the applicant may enter onto the property listed above for the purposes of a commercial interaction with an authorised animal in the wild; and

state that information supplied above is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Signature: | Position of signatory (e.g. Director, manager, owner, partner, chief executive officer etc.): | Date: |