Wildlife Trade Operation application

In Australia, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) controls the export or import of wildlife. This includes animals and plants, and their parts or products including:

- specimens listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
- export of Australian native specimens, and
- import of live specimens.

The commercial export of live native mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians is prohibited.

Who can apply?

A person or business who harvests Australian native species, or parts and derivatives of native species, **from the wild** to:

- export overseas for commercial purposes, or
- sell to exporters who intend to export them overseas for commercial purposes

You do not need to apply for a Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) if you plan to export non-native species that are not listed under CITES.

Native specimen exemptions

You do not need a program or permits to export specimens on the List of Exempt Native Specimens (LENS).

The LENS does not include CITES-listed or threatened species.

State/territory-based operations and management plans

You do not need a program for specimens covered by a state/territory Wildlife Trade Management Plan. When applying for an export permit, you must give copies of the state or territory licence.

Types of WTO

There are five WTO types. These include market-testing, small-scale, developmental, existing stocks, or a commercial fishery.

An operation may be a **market-testing operation** if:

- a restricted number of specimens are exported, and

- the markets to be tested are clearly defined, and
- the means of measuring the success of the market testing is explained, and
- it is likely that the market could be supplied without putting the species at risk.

An operation may be a **small-scale operation** if it has a low impact on the species' survival or conservation status. This is because it is restricted to:

- a small harvest area, or
- a small number of participants, or
- a small number of specimens harvested.

An operation may be a **developmental operation** if:

- it does not fit into either category above,
- it collects data and develops monitoring programs for the development of a wildlife trade management plan, and
- the industry to which the plan relates does not, or is not likely to, adversely affect the conservation status of the species being harvested.

Specimens harvested prior to approval may be able to be exported as an **existing stocks operation** if:

- the relevant specimens were legally obtained before approval of an operation as a WTO or WTMP, and
- the existing stock was harvested from areas covered by a current WTO or WTMP.

Commercial fisheries

Enquiries relating to commercial fishery operations should be submitted to:

The Director
Sustainable Fisheries
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
sustainablefisheries@dcceew.gov.au

Completing the application form

Complete the application form on pages 5-12 and submit to the department. Ensure you:

- Attach all supporting documentation. Requests for further information will delay assessment of the application.
- Sign the application form.
- Complete the application to the best of your knowledge. There are penalties for making false or misleading information.

Assessment of the application

When we get your application, we check if it meets the EPBC Act requirements.

This assessment will consider:

- The plan avoids harming the species survival in the wild
- whether it is likely to threaten the environment
- the significance of the impact of the operation on the species
- the significance of the impact of the operation on the environment
- The plan includes steps to reduce, monitor and respond to potential impacts
- The state/territory laws for protecting the species are in place and considered effective.

Extra rules apply for the taking of live mammals, reptiles, birds or amphibians. These include:

- Animals must be taken, moved and held with minimal stress and injury, and
- If killed, it is done humanely.

The proposal will be posted online for at least 20 business days. Public comments will be requested, and you will have an opportunity to respond. Both public comments and your response will be considered.

When we decide, we will notify you. If approved, the notice and conditions will be published on the Federal Register of Legislation before they take effect. A WTMP can last up to 5 years.

Export permits

You, or your clients, will need wildlife trade permits to export specimens from Australia. For further information on obtaining permits visit the department's website.

Requirements under the EPBC Act are in addition to those under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. For quarantine questions, call 1800 900 090 or visit the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's website.

Contact us

Phone: 1800 075 065
Email: wta@dcceew.gov.au
Website: http://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/wildlife-trade

Application form

This application form sets out the information requirements for consideration of an approval of a Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) under section 303FN of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Privacy

The collection, access, storage, use and disclosure of personal information[1] provided in your application are governed by the *Privacy Act 1988*.

By completing and submitting this application form you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this application.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (department) collects your personal information (as defined by the *Privacy Act 1988* (Commonwealth)) in relation to this application for the purposes of assessing your application and related purposes. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested in this application form, the department will be unable to process your application.

The department may disclose your personal information to other Australian government agencies, persons or organisations where necessary for the above purposes, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the *Privacy Act 1988* (Commonwealth). Your personal information will be used and stored in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles.

See the department's Privacy Policy to learn more about accessing or correcting personal information or making a complaint. Alternatively, email the department at privacy@dcceew.gov.au.

[1] Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable, whether the information or opinion is true or not and whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

Applicant details

1. Applicant

Full name:
Job title/role:

2. Business details (if applicable)

Registered name:
ABN:
ACN:
Website:

3. Address

Street address:

4. Postal address

☐ same as street address

Postal address:

5. Contact details

Mobile:
Landline (include area code):
Email:

Operation details

6. Wildlife trade operation application type

Market-testing operation ☐

Small-scale operation ☐

Developmental operation ☐

Existing stocks operation ☐

**Refer to page 2 for a description of each type.*

7. Previous approvals

Have you previously held a WTO approval or any other wildlife trade approval from this department?

No ☐ ► **Go to next question**

Yes ☐ ► Provide the name and dates of the approved operation.

Name of operation:

Dates of approval

From:
To:

8. Harvest location

Where will harvest occur?

Public land ☐ ► Ensure you have checked that harvesting is allowed in the area you intend to harvest. **Attach** any relevant permissions and a list of locations.

Private property ☐ ► Written permission to harvest is required from the landowner if the property is not owned by the applicant. **Attach** evidence of owner permission and a list of locations.

Combination ☐ ► **Attach** all relevant permissions outlined above.

9. List of the locations (properties or area) where harvest operations will occur

Location 1:
Location 2:
Location 3:
Location 4:

10. State/territory permits/permissions to harvest

Does the species you intend to harvest require permit/s to harvest, keep, sell and/or export in the state/territory where you intend to harvest?

Yes ☐ ► Attach copies of permits/permissions to harvest.

No ☐ ► Attach evidence permits/licences are not required (*note: you can attach a copy of an email, or a screenshot of a website*).

11. Proposal

Complete a proposal (see appendix A for proposal guidance) and submit your proposal, along with the application form, to the department.

Declaration

I declare that:

- The particulars I have provided in this application (including attachments) are true and correct.
- I have not been convicted of an offence in the last 10 years and am not subject to any court proceedings for an offence relating to the protection, conservation or management of native species or ecological communities.

Name of applicant or authorised person:	
Role of applicant or authorised person:	
Signature of applicant or authorised person:	x _____
Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.

Submitting your application

The completed form and attachments can be sent via email to: wta@dcceew.gov.au.

Appendix A: proposal guidance

The following pages contain suggested structure and content for your proposal. While it is a guide only, it is strongly recommended that you address each sub-heading to ensure you provide enough information for the department to assess your application.

1. Title and introduction

This section should identify the species concerned, the management authority (if applicable), relevant State and Commonwealth legislation and a general introduction to the management regime. Suggested content includes:

1.1 Scientific name(s)

1.2 Common name (if applicable)

1.3 Location of harvest

1.4 Description of what is being harvested (for example, live animals; skins; meat; larvae; eggs; branches; whole plants), including size and (juvenile or mature) age of the specimen(s). Where possible, please include a photograph of the specimen.

1.5 Is the species protected under State or Federal legislation? If so, provide details of the legislation and the status of the species under the legislation.

You may wish to present the above in a table if there are multiple species harvested as part of your operation.

2. Statement of general goal/aims

This section should briefly outline the objectives of the operation.

3. Harvest Details

Provide details of the harvesting operation, including all management measures employed to ensure that the specimens are taken in accordance with relevant State or Federal legislation, e.g. licensing of harvesters and dealers, tagging requirements and provisions for determining quotas.

Suggested content includes:

3.1 Details of the area where harvesting is to take place, including an indication of the size of the area and, if appropriate, a sketch or map and photographs.

3.2 Details of land ownership - if private property, please provide a brief description. Detail any restrictions placed by the landowner or the permits/licences.

3.3 What quantity do you intend harvesting and how will this be measured? Please specify and define the units to be used, for example 1 bunch = 25 stems.

3.4 What are the methods of harvesting and equipment to be used (for example, by hand; net; heavy machines)? Is the method of harvesting selective or non-selective?

3.5 What is the timing and duration of the harvesting period - the time of year and length of harvest season?

4. Impact of harvest on the taxa and the relevant ecosystem

Provide details of the likely impact of the harvest on the species and the ecosystem. Include impacts due to the size of harvest, harvest methodology and where relevant how the harvest site is accessed by the harvester. In estimating the likely impact, it is necessary to consider the species' biology, its role in the ecosystem and in some cases its susceptibility to pathogens introduced during the harvest operation.

Provide reasons why you believe there is or isn't any impact. Clearly state if the information provided is based on personal observations and include references for sources quoted.

5. Monitoring and assessment

Please provide details of the direct and indirect monitoring procedures employed and include an outline of the analyses performed on data obtained from these monitoring procedures.

5.1 Has there been a resource assessment of distribution and abundance (for example, population survey) for the harvest area? If yes, provide details.

5.2 Will there be independent supervision of the harvesting? If so, provide details (for example, State/Territory control) and how this will be achieved.

5.3 Outline the methods to be employed to monitor the harvesting of the specimens to identify whether the species or other species in the ecosystem are affected by the harvesting.

5.4 Describe any other biological and environmental monitoring proposed for the harvesting area.

6. Management strategies

How will you respond to population changes if/when detected?

7. Compliance

What methods are available to ensure that only legally obtained material enters commercial trade?

8. Reports

Periodic reports (at least annually: requirements will be specified in the declaration approving the operation) must be provided to the Department on implementation of the proposal. These reports may be made available to the public.

9. Background information

Include background information on the biology of the species relevant to its management and history of the harvest/industry. Please include references.

PLEASE NOTE: As the proposal will be published on the internet, please ensure that any personal details that you do not wish to be published are not included in the proposal.

Checklist of attachments

Document type	Supplied	Attachment name
Proposal, including list of species	☐	
Copy of permission to harvest (property owner)	☐	
Copy of state/territory permit and/or permission to harvest	☐	
Maps, photographs and/or sketches of harvest site/s	☐	