



SOUND DECISION-MAKING WORKSHOP

Workshop scenario 1

You are a decision-maker working for the Department of Forests and Trees.

Your position title was 'Regional Executive Director – Forest Preservation', but under a recent departmental restructure your position title has been changed to 'Regional Managing Director – Preservation of Forests'. You make your decisions under the *Forest, Tree and Sapling Act 1956* ('the Act').

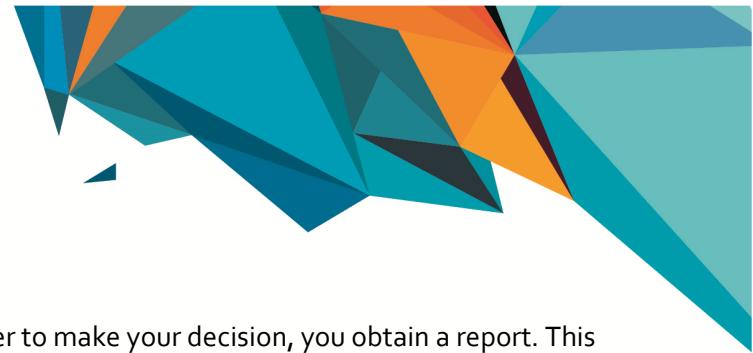
The Act states that the Chief Executive may grant a permit to allow an applicant to remove protected trees from their property, where the Chief Executive is satisfied that the removal of the trees will not cause excessive detriment to the protected tree population in the relevant area.

The Act states that the Chief Executive may take into account the number of protected trees in the area, the effect of the removal of these trees on the protected tree population, and any other information the Chief Executive considers necessary to make a decision to grant a permit to remove the protected trees.

Theresa Green, a member of the community, applies for a permit under the Act to remove seven protected trees from her property. This application is placed in your in-tray and you are asked to make a decision on it.

Question 1

What should your first actions be in relation to the application?



Workshop scenario 1 cont.

In the course of gathering all the relevant material in order to make your decision, you obtain a report. This report is written by a specialist in arboriculture (a 'tree expert') who concludes that the destruction of the protected trees would decimate the protected tree population in the area, and would be disastrous for the tree ecosystem in that region. Parts of the report deal with a highly confidential departmental proposal of a scheme to revegetate portions of the region which has not yet been disclosed publicly.

Question 2

Once you have gathered all of your relevant material, what is the next step you will take in your process?



Question 3

What are you going to do with the expert report and the information contained in it?



Scenario 2

You have the power under the *Rollercoaster Enjoyment Act 2001* to make decisions about the type and number of rollercoasters that are permitted in theme parks across Queensland.

You have heard that your Aunt Madge and Uncle Bill own a theme park somewhere near Mount Isa, but you have not been in close contact with them for over ten years (except for the occasional Christmas card). You are not sure what their theme park is called or even if they are still running the business.

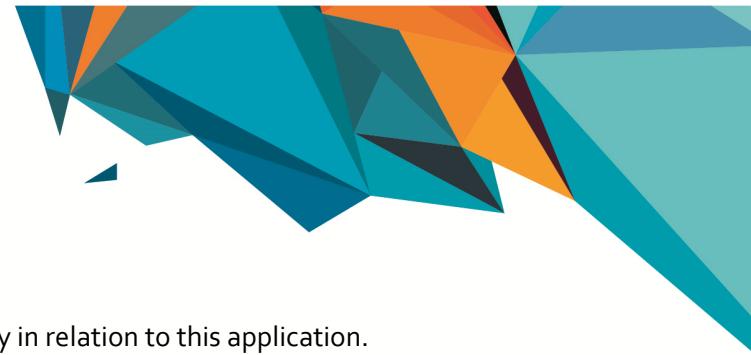
An application comes to you from a theme park in Camooweal for the installation of three new state-of-the-art rollercoasters, which the application asserts will make Camooweal the roller-coaster destination of Queensland.

You've never heard of Camooweal, but with your finely-honed internet research skills, you ascertain that it is 188 km west of Mt Isa.

The application has been made by a company called 'Pimp My Rollercoaster Pty Ltd'. The contact person listed on the application is not familiar to you, but you discover from a company search that your aunt and uncle are the managing directors of Pimp My Rollercoaster Pty Ltd.

Question 1

What steps should you take now in relation to making this decision?



Workshop scenario 2 cont.

Your delegate now has the decision-making responsibility in relation to this application.

Despite the overwhelmingly positive effects the roller-coasters are likely to have on the economy of the region and the strength of the business case put forward by the applicants, the decision-maker decides to reject the application.

The rejection is based on a departmental policy which states that outback towns should not have more than two rollercoasters. However, the *Rollercoaster Enjoyment Act 2001* provides no such restriction.

Question 2

Do you think this is a sound decision? Why or why not?
