



# **TERN Robson Creek 25 hectare site**

## **Research Application Form**

**Application to perform research  
at TERN Robson Creek 25 ha site**

**December 2014**

## Section 1: Site Induction & Safety Information

This application should be read in conjunction with the Robson Creek 25 ha "[Site Induction & Safety Information](#)" document which contains essential information for research applicants concerning the operation of the Robson Creek 25 ha rainforest research site. To avoid any confusion regarding the operation of the research facility and its suitability for a particular research project, this application should not be completed unless the applicant has read the Site Induction & Safety Information document.

The Robson Creek 25 ha site is part of the TERN Australian SuperSite Network, Far North Queensland Rainforest SuperSite. The site is locally managed by the CSIRO Tropical Forest Research Centre and overseen by James Cook University (JCU). The site provides access to forested land, and access to the flux tower. Researchers wishing to access the site or the tower must first apply to the Site Management Committee using this application form.

The site was chosen as a representative upland (400-1000 m) rainforest site with high plant and animal diversity, homogeneity of forest type and parent material, and all weather access. The site will also serve as an area of reference for the study of succession and long-term ecological change, so the managers of the facility need to ensure that the activities on site will have minimal impact on the fauna and flora, the site and any other ongoing research. This is why we have this application form and a process of review.

### Who completes this application form?

This form should be completed by the Principal Investigator of the research project; the person managing the work in the field. This person completes the application on behalf of all people who intend to use the facilities in connection with the same project. The Principal Investigator will sign this application form and take responsibility for the information provided to the Robson Creek 25ha site. The Principal Investigator is the person we will correspond with in relation to this project. If the Principal Investigator is a postgraduate student, we will require the name of this person's principal academic supervisor. If the Principal Investigator wishes to use the site for more than one research project, a separate form should be completed for each project.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their requirements with the Site Manager, who will be able to advise applicants about:

- ❖ international protocols which apply to particular research
- ❖ the characteristics of the site and possibilities for collaboration
- ❖ any permits which may be necessary.
- ❖ appropriate inductions

They can also put you in touch with researchers who are already using the site.

Site Manager contact details:

Matt Bradford  
Mobile 0427117648  
Ph. 0740918825  
Fax 0740918888  
Email matt.bradford@csiro.au

CSIRO, PO Box 780, Atherton, Qld 4883

### Review process for applications

All applications are reviewed and checked. The managers of the Robson Creek Site need to be satisfied that:

- ❖ the methods proposed will not impact adversely on the site or other researchers' work;
- ❖ the research proposed is not unnecessarily duplicating work already being done;
- ❖ the applications are supported by bona fide institutions and scientists of repute.

### When to send applications

Applications can be sent at any time during the year (there are no official closing dates). Applications should be received in Australia a reasonable period before the applicant expects to use the facility. Once applications are received a temporary booking will be made. The Principal Investigator will be notified as soon as possible after the application is reviewed.

## Section 2: Your Proposed Research

### Principal Investigator's details

*Full name and title*

*Institution*

*Position*

*Postal address*

*Tel*

*Email*

### Project Details

As well as assisting reviewers this information may be used in reports and publicity

*Title*

*Short Description and Objectives*

If this is a student project, who is your Principal Supervisor?

## Impacts of your research

The Robson Creek site has a high number of rare and/or threatened species of plants and animals. The environmental integrity of the site is extremely important and some people will want to use the facilities for long-term work. The reviewers of your application will need to assess the likely impact of the work you propose, as well as whether it has the capacity to affect other researchers' work or results.

### Will your research at the Robson Creek Site involve any of the following activities?

**(a) Will your work involve destructive sampling of vegetation?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (Which species? What do you want to do? How many individuals will be affected?)

**(b) Will you be capturing animals?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (Which species? What do you want to do? How many individuals will be affected?)

**(c) Will you be marking plant or animal individuals?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (Which species? What do you want to do? How many individuals will be affected?)

**(d) Will you be collecting and removing organisms?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (Which species? What do you want to do? How many individuals will be affected?)

**(e) Will you be killing animals?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (Which species? What do you want to do? How many individuals will be affected?)

**(f) Will you be manipulating any aspect of the canopy?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (What do you want to do?)

**(g) Will you be placing platforms or equipment in the canopy?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (What do you want to do?)

**(h) Will you be using chemicals?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (What do you want to do? Which chemicals do you want to use? Which organisms will it affect and in what way?)

**(i) Will you be producing loud or persistent noise?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide details (What do you want to do? For how long will the noise persist and at what volume?)

**Removal of specimens from Australia**

Australia is signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Researchers wishing to take any native fauna or flora (whole or part, living or dead) outside Australia for scientific purposes must apply for a permit to export or import wildlife. For more information, please contact:

The Director  
International Wildlife Trade  
Department of the Environment, Water,  
Heritage and the Arts  
GPO Box 787  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Fax: (02) 6274 1921  
(Intl) +61 2 6274 1921  
Telephone: (02) 6274 1900  
(Intl) +61 2 6274 1900  
Email: [wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au](mailto:wildlifetrade@environment.gov.au)

**Does this proposal require an ethics committee approval from your institution?**

Yes  No If yes, please attach the committee's report

**If you answered 'Yes' to items (a-e) above, you may need a permit from the Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service.**

The Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland have special legislation to protect wildlife. All users of natural and protected resources (including researchers) must work within this legislation. Some of the activities you are proposing may require you to obtain a permit from the appropriate government authority. The following paragraph provides a guide:

A 'Scientific Purposes Permit' is required for all activities where researchers will take (for example, capture, trap/net); use (for example, mark & release, experiment with, or extract a sample of); or keep protected species. Protected species include all species of native birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibia, and any plants, which are on the protected species list. There is an application form for researchers who require a 'Scientific Purposes Permit'.

To obtain an application form, or make an inquiry, please contact:

Coordinator, Scientific Research Permits,  
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service  
PO Box 2066  
Cairns Qld 4  
870  
AUSTRALIA  
Telephone: (07) 4046 6717  
(Intl) +61 7 4046 6717

The Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service advises that most permit applications are straightforward and take 4 weeks to process, but some can take up to 60 days. In your application you will have to specify the scientific names of the organisms being taken, used or kept, and the number of individuals involved. If you don't include this information, the permit will take longer to process. There is no fee for this permit. Permits can be granted for research activities up to 5 years duration.

**Has funding for this project been obtained through a grant?**

Yes  No

If yes, please provide the following details. (This is for our own records, so we can better advise potential users of appropriate funding sources)

Name of the Funding Body

Type of Grant

**Indicate the period for which you would like this application to be in effect**

Start Date

End Date

**Is there anything extra you would like the reviewers to know in support of your application?**

If yes, please attach supporting statements

Signed By \_\_\_\_\_