

Permit application assessment fee (PAAF)

2026

What is a permit application assessment fee?

A permit application assessment fee (PAAF) is collected to partially cover the cost of processing applications for Marine Parks permits by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Reef Authority) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). Moneys received from assessment fees remain with the Reef Authority and the QPWS.

Who needs to pay a permit application assessment fee?

Anybody applying for a permit to conduct a commercial activity within the Great Barrier Marine Park will be charged an assessment fee unless a delegate of the Reef Authority determines the assessment to be minimal. There are two types of PAAFs:

- Initial fees apply if you are applying for a new operation, or significantly changing an existing one.
- Continuation fees apply to operators who already hold a permit, but who wish to continue operations beyond the permit expiry date. Continuation fees will only apply if permit applications are lodged before the existing permit expires. If major changes are requested in a continuation application, an initial fee may be charged.

How do I know what fee I will be charged?

Please refer to the tables on the following pages. Fees are established in the *Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) as partial cost recovery for government. The fees have been set to reflect the amount of time spent administering and/or assessing the request for permission, and therefore vary according to the complexity of the request. Fees are indexed in accordance changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) each year.

Generally, if you are applying for more than one activity type listed in the assessment fees table below, the fee payable is the single higher or highest of the fees specified for relevant activities. **Your PAAF can only be decided definitively when your application has been submitted and accepted.**

When do the fees have to be paid?

A notice of the fee will be sent to you as soon as possible after your application has been accepted. You will then have 21 days from the date of that notice to pay the fee. For large operations requiring an environmental impact statement or a public environment report there is provision for payments to be made by instalments.

If the assessment fee is not paid within 21 days, your application will be taken to have been withdrawn and there is **NO** provision for an extension of time. If your application is taken to have been withdrawn and your current permit expires, you will have to pay the higher assessment fee charged for obtaining a new permit when you re-apply, and you will be required to cease operations until you receive the new permit, if granted. **No decision will be made on a permit application until the assessment fee has been paid.**

Are fees refundable if my application is refused?

No, assessment fees are not refundable if the application is refused. The fees are to cover our costs of assessing your application, regardless of whether a permit is granted.

How often do I have to pay a permit application assessment fee?

Each time you make an application for a commercial activity you will be charged an assessment fee. Permits are issued for different periods depending on the activity, however even if the operation does not change, you are required to pay an assessment fee each time you apply. This is because a new assessment and decision is made against the mandatory criteria for each application as required under the Regulations.

Is there a fee to change my operation?

Changing your operation may require a further assessment of the impacts of the new operation and you must let us know before you commence any changes. You may be charged an initial assessment fee if there are significant changes, such as:

- increase in passenger capacity
- changes in type of activities; and
- additions to permitted locations.



PERMITS INFORMATION

For further information on fees, please see our [application guidelines](#).

Assessment fees

	2026 initial fee	2026 continuation fee
Activity that requires use of an aircraft or vessel having a maximum passenger capacity of:		
(a) Less than 25	\$980	\$980
(b) 25-50	\$1,410	\$1,130
(c) 51-100	\$2,560	\$1,560
(d) 101-150	\$4,270	\$2,270
(e) More than 150	\$7,140	\$2,850
Activity that requires the use of a facility or structure in the Marine Park	\$3,130	\$3,130
Activity whose impacts are to be assessed by public information package	\$11,430	\$4,270
Activity about which a public environment report (PER) is to be prepared	\$57,250	\$57,250
Continuation of an activity that required a public environment report, where another report is not required		\$7,140
Activity about which an environmental impact statement (EIS) is to be prepared	\$154,650	\$154,650
Activity about which a PER or EIS was originally prepared, if no other such report is to be prepared about the continuation		\$7,140
Activity not listed above	\$980	\$980



PERMITS INFORMATION

Fees for other applications and requests

Fee category	2026 fee
1. Transfer of a permit	\$804
2. Variation of a condition	\$548
3. Change to a SNA / ENA / MNA / FNA	\$75
4. Replacement of a BIN / VIN / AIN schedule	\$75
5. Re-issue of a permit	\$75
6. Request to the Reef Authority for information about any of the following:	
(a) the conditions to which a permit is subject	\$75
(b) whether the permission is in force	\$75
(c) the activities for which the permission has been granted	\$75
7. Request to vary an application, if as a result of the variation:	
(a) the Reef Authority must notify or renotify under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	\$75
(b) an assessment, or an additional assessment, must be made	\$75
8. Request for a summary of documents, being a list of any or all of the following:	
(a) each permission granted to the person making the request	\$75
(b) each application made by the person	\$75
9. Lodgement fee for Permit Allocation (special permits)	\$459
Plaque fees	2026 fee
AIN Plaque	\$19.25
BIN Plaque	\$11.30
VIN Plaque	\$19.25
Postage and handling (per plaque package)	\$9.50

For more information:

Reef Authority website: www.gbrmpa.gov.au/access/permits

Permit enquires can be addressed to: assessments@gbrmpa.gov.au