

# Bushwalking

The planning considerations that are common to all curriculum activities can be found in the [CARA generic template](#). These must be considered as well as the activity-specific considerations outlined below.

## Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in bushwalking as a curriculum activity. It covers walking in mainly natural areas for a period of less than one hour's walking to an extended period that may require overnight camping for more than two days.

## Mandatory/special requirements

Mandatory requirements must be met for the activity to be conducted. Special requirements are to be considered in the planning and delivery of this activity.

Age, size, ability and maturity of students must be considered when determining suitability to undertake physical activities

Refer to [Queensland Adventure Activity Standards](#) and the [Rural Fire Service](#) when planning this activity.

Depending on the scope of this activity, other risk assessments may be required when planning. Refer to other [Outdoor recreation](#) and [Sport](#) activity guidelines as appropriate.

Adhere to [Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water](#) if applicable.

## Risk level

There are four levels of bushwalking and six classes of track classification. Refer to [Appendix 1](#) for more information on track classification.

- **Medium** risk: Controlled areas up to and including Class 4 graded tracks.

Easy, graded tracks relates to conducting walks on formed roads or Class 1 or 2 tracks that are maintained on a regular basis and clearly signed, and where the nearest safe collecting feature can be reached within one hour's walk.

### OR

Tracked, easy untracked areas (controlled environments) relates to conducting walks where the nearest safe collecting feature can be reached between one to two hours' walk, easily reached using basic navigation principles, on Class 3 or 4 tracks formed trails or areas that are:

- reliably marked on maps;
  - are obvious on the ground; and
  - are regularly inspected or are in areas where navigation is required along clearly defined/easily followed handrails or landscape features.
- **High** risk: Intermediate areas and uncontrolled areas (Class 5 graded tracks and higher).

Difficult, trackless areas (intermediate environments) relates to conducting walks on Class 5 or 6 tracks or areas where there are limited modifications to the natural surface so that track alignment is indistinct in places, there is minimal clearance along the track, signage is minimal or absent, there are natural hazards present, where the nearest safe collecting feature is more than two hours' walk but less than two days' walk, and can be reached using well developed navigational principles.

### OR



Unmodified areas (uncontrolled environments) relates to conducting walks in landscapes which are totally natural, where there are no modifications to the natural surface, where no tracks exist, there is no signage, and where the nearest safe collecting feature can be more than two days' walk and/or reached using extensive navigational skills.

### Minimum supervision requirements

- Designated group roles (e.g. leader, group member, first aid officer, tail end).
- A management plan for the administering of prescription medications (e.g. asthma puffer) to students.
- Leaders who are familiar with the intended route, the program, sources of drinking water, their role in the program and emergency procedures to be used.
- Regular checks on group numbers to ensure that contact between all group members is maintained.
- An appointed non-participating contact as part of the emergency management plan for Class 4, 5 or 6 tracks, remote bushwalks and/or overnight bushwalks.
- Consult the Planning Considerations section as outlined in the [CARA generic template](#).

### Minimum qualifications for supervisors

#### *All risk levels*

- Supervisors should have demonstrated skills and currency that meet leadership, group management, technical capacities and safety requirements (including current familiarity with the environment, map coverage of the area and emergency procedures) of the specific circumstances being addressed.
- Nationally recognised qualifications in bushwalking:
  - A certificate from an Recognised Training Organisation (RTO) for the completion of nationally recognised training in a bushwalking skill set at or above the appropriate level, as explained in the Sport and Recreation Training Package (SIS10).
  - A qualification from an RTO at Certificate III, Certificate IV or Diploma level for the completion of Nationally Recognised Training for the full qualification with a noted specialisation for Bushwalking Guide at/or above the appropriate level. Note: This specialisation must be printed on the certificate for it to have been attained.
  - Equivalent qualification to ensure competence.

Refer to [Appendix 2](#) for specific information on supervisor qualifications for each risk level.

Note: Competence is to be assessed annually, considering the outdoor environment that the activity is taking place in, to ensure currency and relevancy. Details about how the activity leader has demonstrated competence should be included in the 'Other Details' box of the CARA generic template or OneSchool module.

Refer to the [National Outdoor Recreation Training Package](#) for further information on supervisor qualifications.

### Minimum requirements for equipment/facilities

#### *All risk levels*

- Permission and/or relevant permits from landowners and land-management agencies to enter their property. Adhere to the requirements of permits.
- An emergency management plan to account for the range of possible causes and responsibilities of leaders and participants.
- An appointed **first aid officer** with:
  - a first aid kit suitable for the activity and the experience to use it effectively;
  - a medical alert list collated from information on medical consent forms before departure and to be carried at all times;
  - a first aid register, accident and illness reports;

- procedures for administering student medication; and
- a communication procedure for external assistance if required.
- A route card should be left with a responsible adult not involved in the activity, e.g. local police, park ranger or principal. The card should include:
  - an outline of the route to be followed;
  - the number and names of the party;
  - the estimated time of departure and estimated time of arrival of the party;
  - a contact person (e.g. principal) in the case of emergency; and
  - alternative emergency routes/tracks.
- Effective communication system including a communication device that will work in the relevant conditions (e.g. two-way radio, mobile phone). Note that battery life can be impacted by weather conditions.
- Waterproof containers for all electronic and other equipment that can be damaged by water.
- Personal equipment for all participants including (but not limited to):
  - individual drinking containers with each student carrying 2 – 3 litres of water for each day;
  - personal food supplies in excess of the requirements of the planned walk, including emergency rations for 24 hours more than the initial planned duration;
  - protective clothing (long-sleeved shirt and pants for all weather extremes, wind and rain jacket, suitable shoes and suitable footwear for swimming in creeks, if appropriate);
  - insect repellent, sunscreen and personal hygiene items as necessary;
  - toileting equipment (if applicable); and
  - a plastic (or reusable) bag for rubbish.

Note that activity leaders are responsible for determining the equipment to be carried by all participants

- Adhere to [Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water](#) if applicable.

## Hazards and controls

Hazards	Control measures
Biological material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief all participants about the nature and purpose of the activity, potential hazards (e.g. thorned flora, steep slopes, wild pigs) and appropriate safety procedures, including those of the first aid officer.</li> <li>• Brief all participants on basic first aid procedures for biological hazards they may encounter (e.g. ticks, leeches).</li> <li>• Brief all participants on appropriate toileting procedures for the duration of the walk.</li> </ul>

Hazards	Control measures
Environmental conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the <a href="#">weather conditions</a> and the conditions of the terrain before the bushwalk takes place, identify potential dangers (e.g. fire or flash flooding susceptibility and potential flying items during strong winds) and suitable emergency procedures developed.</li> <li>• Consider the geography when planning the route, to avoid walking along cliff edges (slipping hazard) and below cliff faces (falling rocks).</li> <li>• Plan and ensure all supervisors and students are prepared for a range of emergencies (e.g. lost member of a group, medical emergency, equipment failure, storm).</li> <li>• Plan alternative routes in case of emergency situations (e.g. bushfire, thunderstorm, extreme temperature, king tide).</li> <li>• Constantly monitor surroundings for weather, terrain and wildlife hazards during the bushwalk.</li> <li>• Adjust and enact emergency procedures accordingly to prevent catastrophic consequences.</li> <li>• Ensure that minimal environmental impact message is conveyed (e.g. waste disposal, trampling vegetation).</li> </ul>
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure students are aware of the location of emergency and first-aid equipment.</li> <li>• Consider any recovery/rescue equipment that may be necessary depending on the location (e.g. emergency position-indicating radio beacon (EPIRB), satellite emergency notification device, flares).</li> <li>• Ensure suitable communication is available and in working order. Consider mobile phone network access, battery and waterproof casing.</li> <li>• Carry electronic and other equipment that can be damaged by water in water resistant containers.</li> <li>• Ensure clothing appropriate to the activity is worn by all participants and includes appropriate clothing for all weather extremes (e.g. sturdy walking shoes, sun protection when in open areas, shoes when swimming in creeks).</li> </ul>
Physical exertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct appropriate lead-up activities.</li> <li>• Ensure participants are able to easily carry the overall backpack weight.</li> <li>• Establish resting stops, considering the age and fitness level of students.</li> <li>• Adopt a system of signals to clearly communicate the need for assistance if in difficulty.</li> </ul>
Student considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review health, maturity, fitness, suitability and competency of participating students.</li> <li>• Record individual student medical conditions and brief staff on any student health plans.</li> <li>• Ensure all leaders are familiar with the route to be taken, the program, their role in the program and emergency procedures to be used.</li> <li>• Provide supervision of the group through measures such as designating group roles (e.g. leader, group member, tail end). Make regular checks on group numbers and ensure that contact between all group members is maintained.</li> <li>• Brief all participants on appropriate behaviours to help keep themselves safe on the bushwalk (e.g. stick to the path, maintain a reasonable walking speed).</li> <li>• Brief all participants on the procedure to be followed should a participant become separated or lost from the group.</li> </ul>

## Additional links

- Bushwalking Queensland  
<http://bushwalkingqueensland.org.au/>
- Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation  
<https://qorf.org.au/>
- Vocational Education and Training  
<http://training.gov.au/>

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## Appendix 1

### Summary of the Australian Standard™ Walking Tracks Part One: Classification and Signage (AS 2156.1—2001)

#### Class 1:

Tracks provide opportunities for a large number of visitors, including those with reduced mobility, to traverse the natural environment easily. They provide high level of interpretation and facilities. Steps allowed only with ramp access. Users need no previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety.

#### Class 2:

Tracks provide opportunities for large numbers of visitors to walk easily in natural environments. They provide moderate to high level interpretation and facilities. They are generally on low gradients. Users need no previous experience and are expected to exercise normal care regarding their personal safety.

#### Class 3:

Tracks provide opportunities for visitors to walk in slightly modified natural environments requiring a moderate level of fitness. They provide low level of interpretation and facilities. Users need no bush walking experience and a minimum level of specialised skills. Users may encounter natural hazards such as steps and slopes, unstable surfaces and minor water crossings. They are responsible for their own safety.

#### Class 4:

Tracks provide opportunities for visitors to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments along defined and distinct tracks with minimal (if any) facilities. They provide minimal interpretation and facilities. Users can expect opportunities for solitude and few encounters with others. Users require a moderate level of specialised skills such as navigation skills. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.

#### Class 5:

Tracks provide opportunities for visitors with outdoor skills to discover the natural environment. Visitors require a higher degree of specialised skills such as navigation skills. Users may require maps and navigation equipment to successfully complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.

#### Class 6:

Users require previous experience in the outdoors and a high level of specialised skills such as navigational skills. Users will generally require a map and navigation equipment to complete the track. Users need to be self-reliant, particularly in regard to emergency first aid and possible weather hazards.

The above classifications come from the [Australian Standards 2156.1-2001: Walking tracks – Classification and signage](#).

### Additional link

- Classification of Walking Tracks  
<http://www.outdoorswa.org/files/Bushwalking%20Levels%20&%20Assessment%20Requirements.pdf>

## Appendix 2:

### Supervisor qualifications

For a summary of Bushwalking Qualifications see [Appendix 3](#).

**Medium** risk level

#### Easy Graded Tracked Areas

- A registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in the bushwalking activity to be undertaken.  
**OR**
- An adult other than a teacher with a statement of attainment from an Registered Training Organisation (RTO) covering SISOODR303A/SROODR005A Guide outdoor recreation sessions, working under established safety procedures and the direct supervision of a registered teacher.  
**OR**
- An adult leader other than a teacher with a nationally recognised qualification as a “Bushwalking Guide”, working under established safety procedures and the direct supervision of a registered teacher.

#### Tracked and/or Easy Untracked Areas

- A registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in the bushwalking activity to be undertaken.  
**OR**
- An adult other than a teacher (working under established safety procedures and the direct supervision of a registered teacher) with a statement of attainment from an Registered Training Organisation (RTO) covering the following units of competence or equivalent:
  - SISOODR303A/SROODR005A Guide outdoor recreation sessions;
  - SISOBWG201A/ SROBWG001A Demonstrate bushwalking skills in a controlled environment; and
  - SISONAV201A/ SRONAV001B Demonstrate navigation skills in a controlled environment.**OR**
- An adult leader other than a teacher with a nationally recognised qualification as a “Bushwalking Guide”, at or above level 2, working under established safety procedures and the direct supervision of a registered teacher.

**High** risk level

#### Difficult, Trackless Areas

- A registered teacher with a statement of attainment from an Registered Training Organisation (RTO) covering the following units of competence or equivalent:
  - SISOODR303A/SROODR005A Guide outdoor recreation sessions.
  - SISOBWG302A/ SROBWG002A Apply intermediate bushwalking skills;
  - SISONAV302A/ SRONAV002B Apply navigation skills in an intermediate environment;
  - SISOOPS306A/ SROOPS004B Interpret weather conditions in the field;
  - SIXXEMR201A/ SRXEMR001A Respond to emergency situations; and
  - SISOBWG404A/ SROBWG004A Apply river crossing skills.**OR**
- An adult leader with a nationally recognised qualification as a “Bushwalking Guide”, at or above level 3, working under established safety procedures and the direct supervision of a registered teacher.

**Unmodified Areas**

- A registered teacher with a statement of attainment from an Registered Training Organisation (RTO) covering the following units of competence or equivalent:
  - SISOODR303A/SROODR005A Guide outdoor recreation sessions;
  - SISOBWG406A/SROBWG003A Apply bushwalking skills in uncontrolled landscapes;
  - SISONAV403A/SRONAV003B Navigate in uncontrolled environments;
  - SISOOPS306A/SROOPS004B Interpret weather conditions in the field;
  - SIXEMR402A/SRXEMR002A Coordinate emergency response; and
  - SISOBWG404A/ SROBWG004A Apply river crossing skills.

**OR**

- An adult leader leader with a nationally recognised qualification as a “Bushwalking Guide”, at or above level 4, working under established safety procedures and the direct supervision of a registered teacher.



## Appendix 3:

### Summary of Bushwalking Qualifications

There are currently 3 nationally recognised qualifications in bushwalking:

1. A certificate from an RTO for the completion of Nationally Recognised Training in a bushwalking skill set at or above the appropriate level, as explained in the Sport and Recreation Training Package (SIS10).
2. A qualification from an RTO at Certificate III, Certificate IV or Diploma level for the completion of Nationally Recognised Training for the full qualification with a noted specialisation for Bushwalking Guide at/or above the appropriate level. This specialisation must be printed on the certificate for it to have been attained.
3. Registration with the National Outdoor Leaders Registration Scheme (NOLRS) as a Bushwalking Guide at/or above the appropriate level. Registration must be current.

	<b>1. Skill Set Qualification</b>	<b>2. Certificate</b>	<b>3. NOLRS</b>
<b>Level 1</b>	Guide – tracked, easy untracked areas (controlled environments)	III in Outdoor, Sport or Community Recreation	Guide – tracked, easy untracked areas (controlled environments)
<b>Level 2</b>	Guide – tracked, easy untracked areas (controlled environments)	III in Outdoor, Sport or Community Recreation	Guide – tracked, easy untracked areas (controlled environments)
<b>Level 3</b>	Guide – difficult, trackless areas (intermediate environments)	IV in Outdoor, Sport or Community Recreation	Guide – difficult, trackless areas (intermediate environments)
<b>Level 4</b>	Guide – unmodified areas (uncontrolled environments)	Dip. in Outdoor, Sport or Community Recreation	Guide – unmodified areas (uncontrolled environments)