

JCU Connect assists and supports the researcher community to ensure compliance with legislative requirements associated with biodiscovery.

Biodiscovery involves collecting and analysing samples of native biological materials (e.g. plants, animals and other organisms) in order to investigate their potential for commercial applications (e.g. pharmaceuticals and insecticides).

In Queensland, the collection of native biological resources from state land or waters and their use in biodiscovery activities is regulated under the [Biodiscovery Act 2004](#) and is managed in a manner consistent with Australia's international obligations under the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#).

If native biological materials are to be taken from state land or waters for biodiscovery, a special permit (biodiscovery collection authority) is required. Before using the materials you will also require a benefit-sharing agreement with the Queensland Government specifying terms under which benefits from biodiscovery will be shared with the State.

Biodiscovery Act 2004 (Qld)

The Biodiscovery Act 2004 aims to ensure biodiscovery activities in Queensland are undertaken in a sustainable manner, while returning a fair and equitable benefit to the community. This is achieved through:

- The use of and adherence to a biodiscovery plan document to be submitted to and approved by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) Science and Technology division.

- A permit regime administered by DES Wildlife Assessments Team and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.
- The establishment of a legally binding benefit-sharing agreement with the State, administered by DES Science and Technology Division.

How do I know if biodiscovery applies to my research?

During the initial stages of the project, researchers can reach out to JCU Connect for assistance and support in meeting biodiscovery requirements. As a guide, if biological materials (or substances sourced from biological materials such as animals and plants) native to Australia and sourced from Queensland or its waters are to be researched **and** outcomes from the research may be commercial in nature, the research would be considered "biodiscovery".

The [Biodiscovery Act Decision Tree](#) can be used to quickly identify whether research activities using native biological materials falls under the Biodiscovery Act or not. Find more information on [Biodiscovery and compliance requirements](#).



For support and advice:

Contact the JCU Connect Development & Commercialisation team via jcuconnect@jcu.edu.au