



Commercial Operator Licensing System

Manual for Commercial Operators

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Contents

Intro	3
Logging in to the Commercial Operator Licensing System (COLS)	3
How to create an account	4
How to manage the organisation account and link employees	5
How to link your account to an organisation already registered in COLS	7
How to create and submit a new licence application	7
Incomplete applications	13
How to view a licence	14
How to search for applications and licences	14
How to amend your licence	14
How to renew your licence	15
How to complete a compliance with requirements	16
How to pay park entry fees online	17
How to obtain a refund for overpayment of park entry fees	19
How to pay park entry fees for additional passengers	19
How to surrender your licence	19
Further assistance or questions	19

Intro

The Commercial Operator Licensing System (COLS) has been developed for use by commercial operators conducting business in Western Australia's national parks and other conservation reserves. The online system allows operators to apply for and renew commercial operations licences, update organisation details and pay park entry fees.

Commercial operators need to setup an account to access and use the online system. You will need a valid email address to setup an account, as COLS is accessed via a verification code sent to your email address and does not use a password. After creating an account, you will need to link it to an organisation (including sole traders) to manage the organisation account and licences.

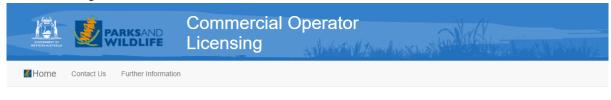
You can access the system or setup your account now by visiting the below link:

https://cols.dbca.wa.gov.au/

We hope that operators find the system intuitive to use and makes it easier to manage licensing requirements. Your feedback and comments are welcomed as we look to improve the functionality and usability of the system over time. Please contact the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) licensing team at licensing@dbca.wa.gov.au or phone (08) 9219 9000.

Logging in to the Commercial Operator Licensing System (COLS)

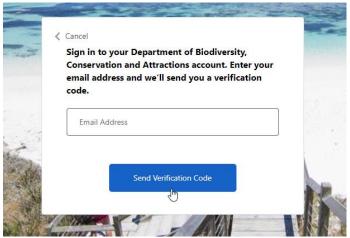
1. Click Login.



Welcome to the Commercial Operator Licensing System

Access to Commercial Operator Licensing

2. Enter your email address, then click "Send Verification Code. You will now receive an email that includes the verification code.

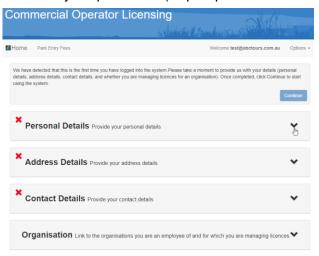


3. Enter the verification code in the applicable field in COLS, then click 'Verify Code'. You will now be logged in.

How to create an account

1. When you first log in, you will be asked to enter your details to create an account. Some fields are mandatory, you will not be able to progress if the mandatory fields are incomplete.

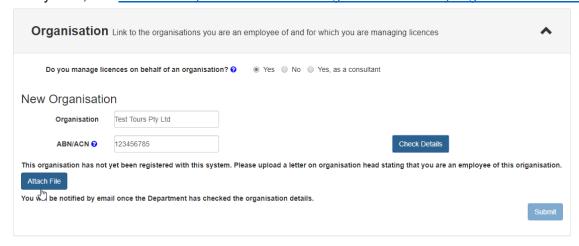
Note: If your email address was attached to a current licence prior to the introduction of the system it will already be linked to your organisation account. Click on the 'Options' menu to update the organisation details and view your pin codes (skip to points 7 to 9 below).



 Under 'Organisation', select 'Yes' to managing licences on behalf of an organisation or as a consultant. To apply for a licence, you will need to link your account to an organisation e.g. a company or a sole trader business.



- 3. Enter the organisation name and ABN/ACN number and press 'Check Details'. If you are a sole trader, enter your name in the organisation box. If your business is not registered within Australia, use the business registration number from the country the business is registered.
- 4. Attach proof that you are an authentic representative of the organisation e.g. a signed letter from the company director stating you work for the company. If the organisation is already registered in the system, see How to link your account to an organisation already registered in COLS.



- 5. Click 'Submit' to send your request to link to the organisation. You will receive a confirmation notice once successfully submitted.
- 6. Once the department has approved your request, you will be sent an email confirming that your account has been linked to the organisation. Once linked you can manage the organisation details.

How to manage the organisation account and link employees

1. Log in to COLS, click on the 'Options' menu and select the option to manage the organisation.

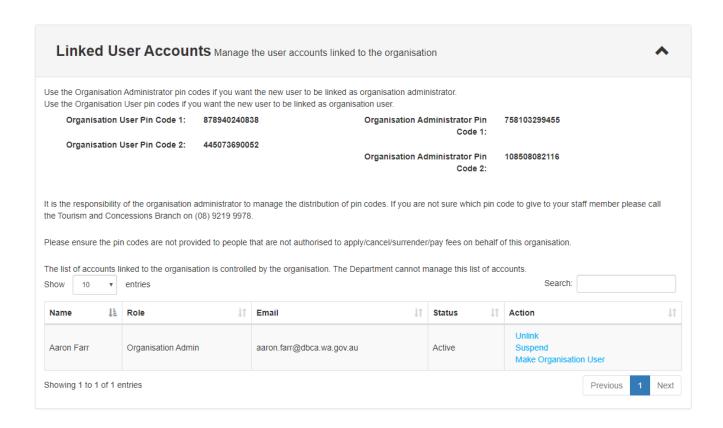


2. Update the organisation details (including trading name), address details and contact details.



3. Under 'Linked User Accounts' there will be two sets of pin codes, four pin codes in total.

The first person to link their account to an organisation will be given access to all pin codes as an administrator. This administrator will need to provide pin codes to staff and approve or decline staff requests to link their accounts to the organisation. See section How to link your account to an organisation already registered in COLS for info on how employees use pin codes when submitting a request.

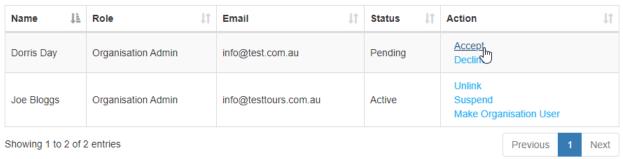


'Organisation Administrator Pin Code' – Give these codes to allow a staff member to apply for a licence on behalf of the organisation, amend the organisation account details and approve and manage the access of other staff.

'Organisation User Pin Code' – Give these codes to allow a staff member to apply for a licence on behalf of the organisation.

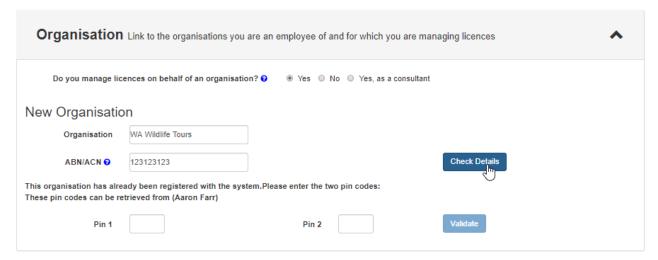
It is the responsibility of the organisation to manage the distribution of pin codes. If you are not sure which pin codes to give to your staff member, please call the DBCA licensing team on (08) 9219 9000.

4. Requests from staff to link to your organisation need to be accepted or declined by your organisation administrator(s) from the 'Linked User Accounts' section.



How to link your account to an organisation already registered in COLS

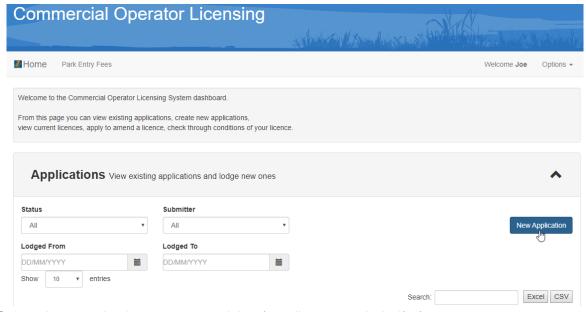
- 1. Log in to COLS, click on the 'Options' menu and click 'Manage Account'.
- 2. Expand the 'Organisation' section and click 'Yes' to managing licences on behalf of an organisation.
- 3. Enter the organisation details and press 'Check Details' to check if the organisation is registered in the system. The ABN/ACN must be input correctly to accurately search for an organisation.
- 4. If the organisation is already registered, you will be asked to enter two pin codes. The system will list the names of the people in your organisation that have access to the pin codes. See How to manage the organisation account and link employees.



- 5. Enter the pin codes and click 'Validate' to submit your access request. You will receive a success notification when your request has been submitted.
- 6. You will be linked to the organisation once the organisation administrator has approved your request.

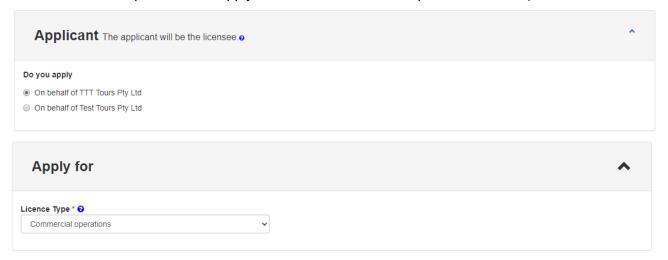
How to create and submit a new licence application

1. Click on 'New Application' in the 'Applications' section on the 'Home' dashboard.

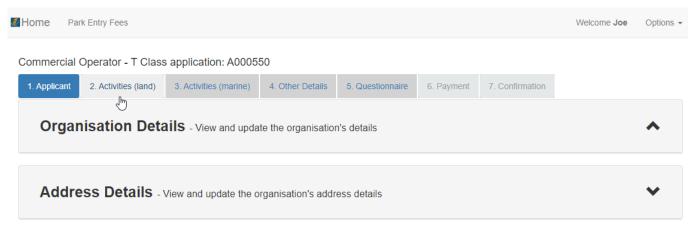


Select the organisation you are applying for a licence on behalf of.

3. Select the licence type you are applying for from the drop-down menu and click 'Continue'. (Select 'Commercial Operations' to apply for T-class commercial operations licence)



4. Navigate through your application by clicking the tabs across the top – Applicant; Activities (land); Activities (marine); Other Details and Questionnaire.



Complete the Applicant tab

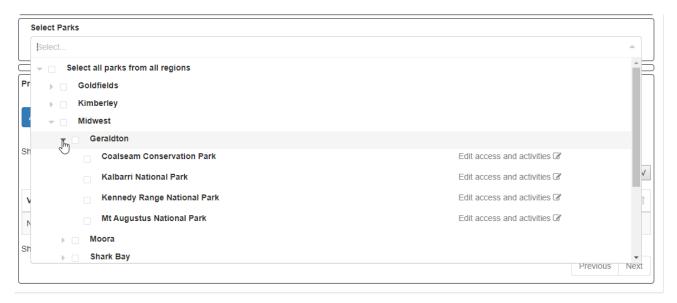
 Review your organisation name, trading name and address. Please email licensing@dbca.wa.gov.au if your ABN details are incorrect.

Complete the Activities (land) tab

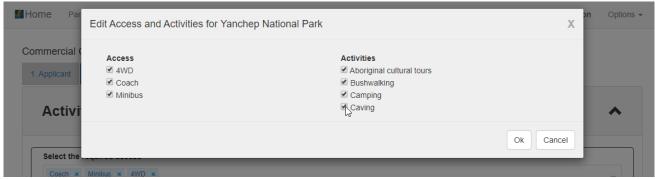
6. Select your required access types and activities from the drop-down menus. Your selections will be automatically applied to the parks you select where the access type and activity is permitted.



7. To select a park, start typing in the name of the park or expand the drop-down lists to select the parks you would like to operate in. Note: You can expand the drop down 'Select Parks' menu multiple times. Click the grey triangles to expand the regions, districts and then parks. Checking a box next to a region or district will select all parks in that region or district.



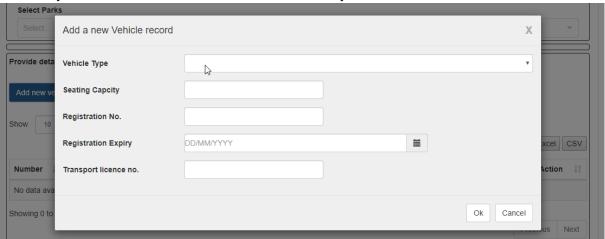
8. After adding your parks, review and edit your requested access and activities by clicking on each individual park name. The popup will show the permitted access and activities for the park and what you have selected. Note: If all park names are not displayed in the box, expand the drop-down list by clicking the grey triangles, then click 'Edit access and activities'.



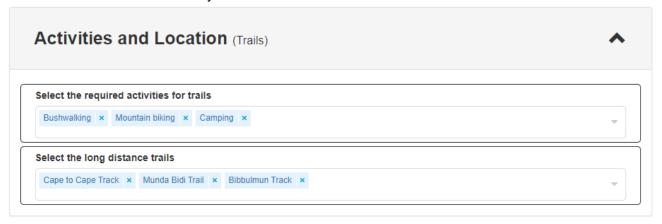
9. A popup to provide additional documentation or information will show if you select parks or activities that have additional requirements. Attach the requested document or uncheck if the park, access or activity is not required.

Mitchell River National Park is jointly managed by the Wunambal Gaambera Aboriginal Corporation (WGAC). Please attach a copy of your current Uunguu Tour Operator Visitor Pass or click here for more information.
Add Document
Attach Document

10. Click 'Add new vehicle' to add details of vehicles used in your operations. If you have multiple vehicles you will need to add each vehicle individually.



- 11. Select any trail activities from the drop-menu. Your selections will be automatically applied to the track/trail sections you select where the activity is permitted.
- 12. Select any tracks and trails from the drop-down menu you intend to access. Adding a track/trail in this box will automatically select all sections of the track/trail.

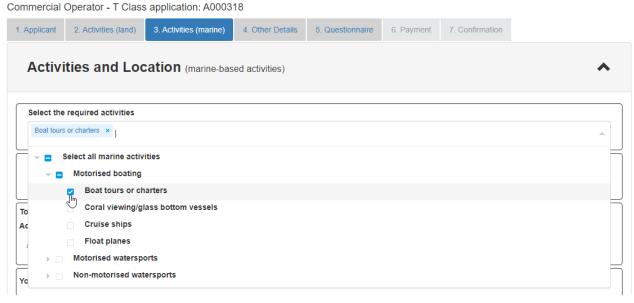


13. Click on the track/trail name to view and edit your selected sections and activities. Click on the map name to view a link showing the sections.

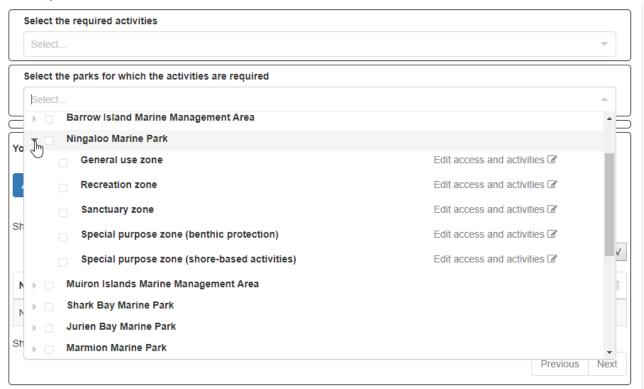


Complete the Activities (marine) tab

14. Select your required activities from the drop-down menu. Your selections will be automatically applied to the marine park zones you select where the access type and activity is permitted.



15. To select a marine park, start typing in the name of the park or expand the drop-down list to view the marine park zone you want to select. Note: You can show the marine park zones by clicking the grey triangle next to the marine park. Checking a marine park box will select all zones in the marine park.



16. After adding your marine park zones, review and edit your selected activities by clicking on the individual zone name. The popup will show the permitted activities for the zone and what you have selected. Note: If all zone names are not displayed in the box, expand the drop-down list by clicking the grey triangle and click 'Edit access and activities'.

Select the parks for which the activities are required				
Shark Bay Marine Park - General use zone	Shark Bay Marine Park - Recreation zone x Shark Bay Marine Park - Sanctuary zone x			
Shark Bay Marine Park - Special purpose zone (various) ×				

Edit Access and Activities for Shark Bay Marine Park - Recreation zone	Х
Activities Aboriginal cultural tours (marine) Boat tours or charters Coral viewing/glass bottom vessels Diving - compressed air (scuba, hookah, snuba) Diving - snorkelling Kayaking/canoeing Kitesurfing/kiteboarding Sailing tours Small craft hire Surfing Swimming Windsurfing Point of access	
	Ok Cancel

17. A popup to provide additional documentation or information will show if you have selected parks and activities that have additional requirements. Attach the requested document or uncheck the park or activity if it is not required.

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To operate boat tours or charters, please attach a copy of your vessel Certificate of Survey.

Add Document

Attach Document
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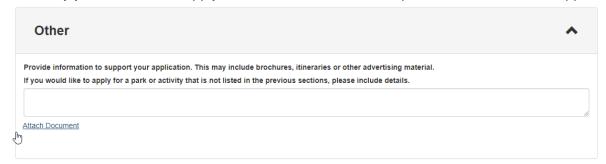
18. Click 'Add new vessel' to enter the details of the vessel to be used in your operations. If you have multiple vessels you will need to add each vessel individually.

Complete the Other Details tab

19. Under 'Tourism Accreditation' select the level of tourism accreditation you have achieved, attach a copy of your certificate and enter the expiry date. Select 'No' accreditation if you are a new applicant without accreditation or applying for a two-month licence. Note: New applicants have six months to obtain accreditation from the date the licence is granted.



- 20. Under 'Licence Term' enter your preferred licence term using the drop-down menu and enter a nominated start date for your licence.
- 21. Under 'Moorings' enter your mooring number and GPS coordinates.
- 22. Under 'Insurance' attach a copy of your current public liability insurance certificate and enter the expiry date.
- 23. In the 'Other' box, provide additional documentation or information including details of any park or activity you would like to apply for that was not listed in the previous sections of the application.



24. Under 'Deed Poll', click the link to download and print the Deed Poll document. Physically sign, date and have the deed poll witnessed, then scan and attach as a document. Please note electronic signatures cannot be accepted.

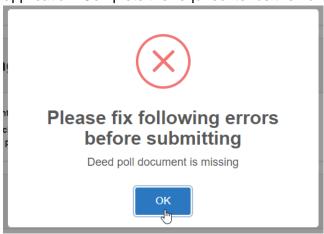


Complete the Questionnaire tab

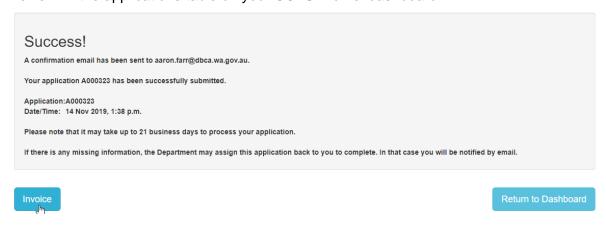
- 25. Click on the link to download and review the 'Commercial operator training program'. This program will provide information to assist in answering the questionnaire.
- 26. Answer all the multiple-choice questions and click 'Check Answers'. You will be able to have another attempt if you get questions incorrect. You will need to answer all questions correctly to submit your application.
- 27. Once you have answered all questions correctly, click 'Save and Continue' to save your result.

Submit your application

- 28. Review the Applicant; Activities (land); Activities (marine); and Other Details tabs to check your application information is correct.
- 29. Click 'Pay and Submit' to submit your application. Click 'Save and Exit' to exit your application and submit at a later date.
- 30. You will receive an error notification if you have not completed a required item for your application. Complete the required item/s then click 'Pay and Submit'.



31. Once submitted you will receive a success notification and be able to download your tax invoice. You will also receive email confirmation and your application will be listed as 'Under Review' in the applications table on your COLS 'Home' dashboard.



Incomplete applications

- 1. You will receive an email if additional information or documentation is needed for your application.
- 2. Log in to COLS and go to the 'Home' dashboard.
- 3. Click on 'Continue' next to the application in the 'Applications' table.
- 4. Provide the missing documents and/or information requested then click 'Resubmit'.

How to view a licence

- 1. Once a licence has been approved you will be sent an email with the licence and associated documentation attached (e.g. additional licence condition schedules).
- 2. You can also view and download your licence and associated attachments on the 'Home' dashboard in the 'Licences' table. View and print your licence by clicking on the pdf in the licence column of the table.

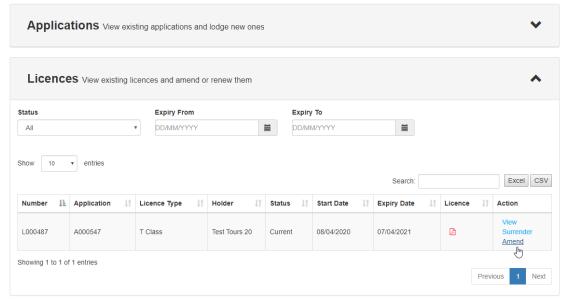
How to search for applications and licences

- 1. You can search your applications and licences using the search text box in the applicable section of your COLS 'Home' dashboard
- 2. You can filter your applications and licences by lodgement date or status using the drop down menus
- 3. When an application has not been submitted you can discard the application if you do not wish to continue.

How to amend your licence

If you would like to add parks or activities to a current licence you will need to submit a licence amendment application.

1. Go to the 'Licences' section on the COLS 'Home' page and click 'Amend' in the action column of your licence. Note: If the action column is not displayed in the table click the blue plus next to the licence number to expand the row and show.



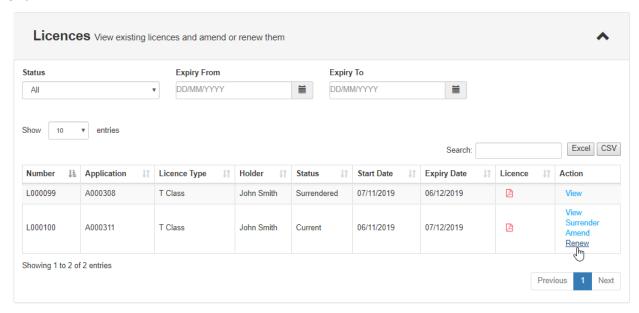
- 2. Select the accesses, activities and parks you want to add to your licence. Note: If this is the first time you have applied through the system you will need to complete all sections of the application except for the questionnaire. See How to create and submit a new licence application.
- 3. Attach documentation for your parks and activities that have additional requirements then press 'Resubmit'.
- 4. Your will receive email notification and an updated licence once the amendment has been approved by DBCA.

How to renew your licence

If you are applying in the online system for the first time, please take the time to complete all sections of the application as this information will be stored in the system and automatically available on your next renewal or amendment application.

If you have changed your business used to operate under your commercial operations licence and have a new ACN or ABN, do not submit a renewal application. You will need to link your new business to your account via the Commercial Operator Licensing System and submit a new application. Go to your manage account section and link to your new organisation, see How to create an account.

- 1. You will receive an email notification when your commercial operations licence is available to
- Log in to COLS and go to the 'Licenses' section on the 'Home' dashboard. Click on 'Renew'. If the action column is not displayed in the table, click the blue plus next to the licence number to show.



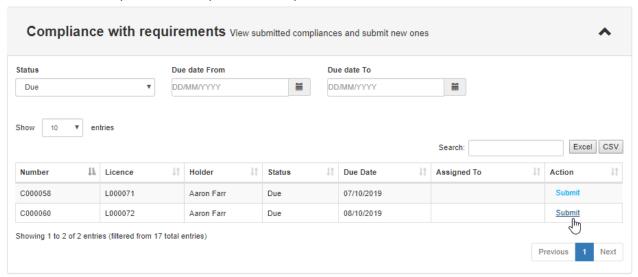
- See points 4-31 of <u>How to create and submit a new licence application</u> for additional instructions
 if this is your first time using COLS to submit an application.
- 4. Select your parks and activities in the Activities (land) and Activities (marine) tabs.
- 5. Attach documentation for your parks and activities that have additional requirements.
- Review the Other Details tab, add your current accreditation and insurance certificates, select your preferred licence term, review any mooring details and complete and attach the Deed Poll declaration.
- 7. Click on the Questionnaire tab, review the training presentation and answer the questions.
- 8. Click 'Pay and Submit'. You will receive email confirmation once your renewal application has been submitted.
- 9. You will receive a notification email if there is incomplete information or documents missing from your application.
- 10. Once your licence renewal has been approved you will be sent an email with the licence and associated documentation attached.
- 11. You can also view and download your licence(s) on the 'Home' dashboard in the 'Licences' table.

How to complete a compliance requirement

Commercial operators are required to adhere to the conditions of their licence and the Commercial Operator Handbook.

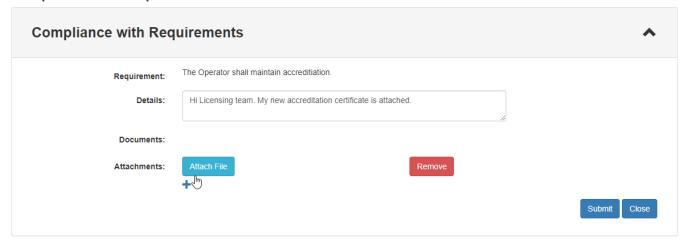
Operators may be required submit additional documentation or information during the licence term as a condition of the licence, such as current public liability insurance and tourism accreditation certificates. These requirements are shown in the Compliance with requirements section in COLS and have a due date for operators to complete by.

- 1. You will receive an email notification two weeks prior to the due date of a compliance requirement.
- 2. To view your compliance requirements, log in to the 'Home' dashboard and scroll down to the 'Compliance with requirements' section.
- 3. Filter your requirements by changing the status to 'Due' in the drop-down menu. Click 'Submit' on the due requirement to open and complete.



4. Attach the required document, enter a message then click 'Submit'.

Compliance with Requirements: C000066

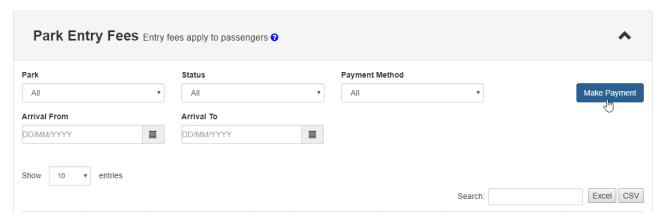


- 5. You will receive a confirmation email once submitted and the status of the requirement will change to 'Under Review'.
- 6. You will be sent another confirmation email once the submission has been reviewed by the department.

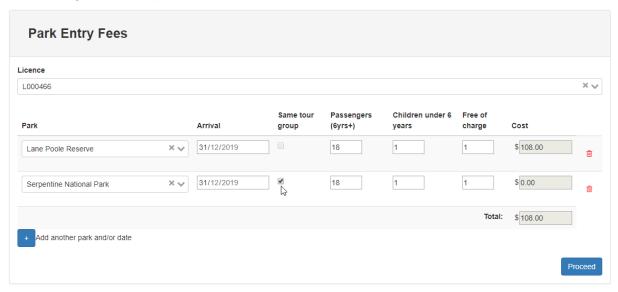
How to pay park entry fees online

Commercial operators are required to pay a per passenger entrance fee at parks or reserves where entry fees apply. These fees are listed under downloads on the DBCA website here: https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/licences-and-permits/commercial-activities/commercial-operations-licensing.

- 1. Log in to your COLS account and click on the 'Park Entry Fees' tab.
- Click on 'Make Payment'.



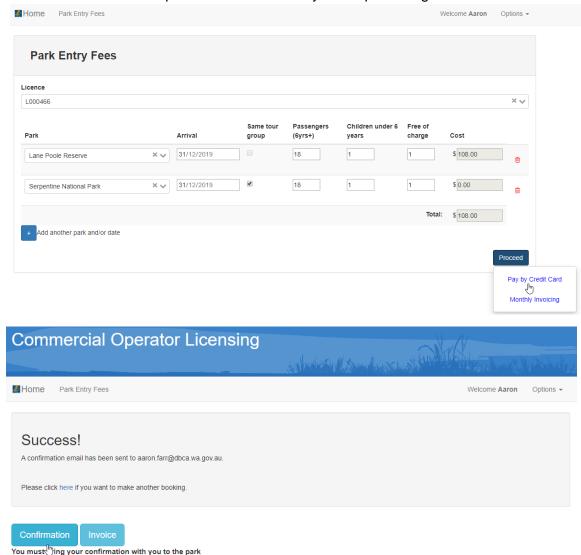
- 3. Select the licence from the drop-down menu you want to pay park entry fees for.
- 4. Select a park to pay entry fees for from the drop-down menu. You will only be able to select a park with entry fees that you are licensed to operate in.
- 5. Enter the date you will be visiting and number of each passenger type. Commercial operator employees such as tour leaders and drivers can be entered as free of charge passengers.
- 6. If a tour is entering multiple parks with entry fees on the same day, only one entry fee applies per passenger. Add all the parks your tour will be visiting on a single payment screen, enter the date and passenger numbers and check the 'same tour group' box. This will reduce the entry fee to zero dollars for passengers who have already paid an entry fee for on the same day. Note: If a tour is visiting Nambung and Yanchep National parks on the same day, a per passenger fee will be charged for both parks.



- 7. To pay for different tours on a single payment screen, add each tour using the 'Add another park and/or date' button and do not check the 'same tour group' box.
- 8. The two options for payment are credit card and monthly invoicing. You will only be able to view and select monthly invoicing if already approved by DBCA.

Once you have paid your park entry fees you can view your booking confirmation and invoice by clicking the buttons on the success screen. You will also receive separate emails with your booking confirmation and invoice attached.

Note: If paying by monthly invoice you will only receive a booking confirmation. Invoices will be emailed to commercial operators on the first day of the preceding month.



- 10. A copy of your booking confirmation or booking invoice must be presented to a Departmental staff member at the park entry point or upon request within the park. (A digital copy is acceptable)
- 11. If paying by monthly invoice, all bookings made during the month will be added to the original booking confirmation and fees listed as unpaid. This confirmation is acceptable to present at the park.
- 12. Your booking confirmations and invoices can be downloaded from the table in the COLS 'Park Entry Fees' dashboard.
- 13. Payment can also be made at the park by completing a commercial operator docket and providing cash or credit card details. Please note that docket books are being phased out over time.

Terms and conditions for the online payment of park entry fees can be downloaded here.

How to obtain a refund for overpayment of park entry fees

If you have overpaid entry fees for a park visit, email the DBCA licensing team at licensing@dbca.wa.gov.au to request a refund.

How to pay park entry fees for additional passengers

Park entry fees must be paid for additional passengers on a tour that are not covered by a booking confirmation. Payment must be made prior to entering a park with entry fees. Note: Payment for additional passengers can be made:

- by the tour guide or driver via the Commercial Operator Licensing System on a mobile device prior to entering the park; or
- remotely by an employee linked to the company through the Commercial Operator Licensing System; or
- by the tour guide or driver at the gate by completing a commercial operator docket.

How to surrender your licence

- 1. Go to the 'Licences' section on the 'Home' dashboard.
- 2. Click 'Surrender' in the action column of the licence you want to surrender. Note: Once you surrender a licence it will no longer be valid.

Further assistance or questions

If you require further assistance with the Commercial Operator Licensing System please contact the DBCA licensing team on (08) 9219 9000 or email licensing@dbca.wa.gov.au.