

Policy Name	Community Permits – Contractors and Staff
Policy Type	Governance
Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Version	1
Approval Date	August 2019
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Policy Number

Gov16

Policy Name

Community Permits – Contractors and Staff

Summary

Aboriginal Land is privately owned. It is not Crown land, nor public land. Permission must be obtained in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* before going onto Aboriginal Land. This includes access to tidal waters over Aboriginal Land.

West Daly Regional Council has a responsibility to protect the Aboriginal Land in which the Council presides.

Unauthorised entry to Aboriginal Land and waters in the Northern Territory can result in a fine of up to \$1000.

The Northern Land Council is responsible for administering the permit system which is designed to protect the privacy of Aboriginal Communities, preserve culture and safeguard the natural environment.

Depending on the purpose, you must apply for either:

1. Work, Transit, Recreational fishing and Tourist Permit;
2. Research Permit;
3. Media Permit;
4. Commercial Film, Video, Photography, Audio Record or Book

Persons found to be unlawfully on Aboriginal Lands will be reported to the Northern Land Council.

Definitions

“Aboriginal Land” Land for which the Aboriginal people hold inalienable freehold title under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*.

“Permit” Certification to allow entry to designated Aboriginal lands for a specific purpose and period of time. Northern Land Council has the statutory responsibility to consult with Aboriginal landowners about issuing Land Permits.

Policy Statement

1. Council will comply with the requirements of relevant national legislation, which requires all persons to possess and carry a Permit and appropriate identification when working and travelling on Aboriginal Land, unless exempted under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*.
2. Council employees are not required to obtain a Permit to access Aboriginal Land within the Council region for work purposes however a Permit is required to access Aboriginal Land and travel outside the Community for recreational purposes including fishing and hunting and the use of quadbikes.
3. Contractors, volunteers and visiting friends and relatives of staff residing within the Community are required to obtain a permit from the Northern Land Council.
4. Employees, contractors and volunteers will respect the cultural and intellectual property rights of Aboriginal people, and will be observant of local cultural requirements for travelling in and around the community. Similarly, employees, contractors and volunteers will be aware of and respect any cultural ceremonies, men's or women's business, or sorry business, occurring in the community and the potential implication of these for travel on Aboriginal lands.
5. Employees, contractors and volunteers are not permitted to access Aboriginal Land outside of the community or outstation they are working within. This includes sacred sites and those places in which men's or women's business may be occurring. Entry to communities may be restricted during periods of cultural business, including sorry business.

REFERENCES

Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act

Northern Land Council

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Chief Executive Officer