

Western Australia – Permits and permissions required to access indigenous and other lands, including national parks

N.B.: Unless otherwise stated under a specific Permit area or other heading, the information below was last revised in May, 2014. However, some prices quoted may date back to August, 2010.

Please also be sure to read the first pdf on this site titled “Heading Outback – Do I Need a Permit? – Can I Drive that Track?” in conjunction with the information below.

General:

Quite a number of transit permits for aboriginal lands in WA are able to be issued by the Aboriginal Lands Trust of WA.

(N.B.: The Aboriginal Lands Trust has no involvement whatever in the issuing of permits for the Canning Stock Route – for Canning information and Permits see below under the heading of Canning Stock Route).

The Aboriginal Lands Trust is a part of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Applications can be made on-line at www.daa.wa.gov.au/ and simply follow the prompts. The web site contains a lot of excellent information including maps showing the specific areas and tracks where Permits are required and whether the Trust or a Land Council issues them. The conditions under which permits can be gained via an automated on-line process are also explained. Once you log on to the web site, click on the “Entering Aboriginal Land” button on the left side of the Home page and read all of the information under the nominated four (4) headings BEFORE applying on-line. The maps showing the tracks and whether DAA or a Land Council, etc., issues them can be found under the “Travel Information” heading. About half way down that page is a map of WA divided into geographical areas; simply click on the area you want to visit.

If you carefully peruse the "Goldfields" area of the map available in the "Travel Information" section and take note of the colour coding which indicates whether or not the Aboriginal Lands Trust or the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council can issue permits, and compare that information to the list of "Goldfields" roads and tracks for which application may be made in the "Apply for Permit" section of the website, some conflicting situations will be noted. However, if the road or track for which you want a permit is nominated in the listing in the "Apply for Permit" section, then application may be made on-line via the Aboriginal Lands Trust website. What happens is that the Aboriginal Lands Trust will simply forward your application on to the Ngaanyatjarra

Land Council for consideration. Ultimately, one or other of them will contact you with the results.

The Permits Officer at the Aboriginal Lands Trust can be contacted at:

The Permits Officer,
Aboriginal Lands Trust,
PO Box 3153,
East Perth, WA 6892

Telephone (08) 6551 8024 - there is also a 1300 number: 1300 651 077
Fax (08) 6551 8088

The email address is joan.groves@daa.wa.gov.au or alternatively permits_queries@daa.wa.gov.au

The main switchboard operator can be contacted on (08) 6551 8000. The street address for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, within which the Aboriginal Lands Trust is located is: Ground Floor, 151 Royal Street, East Perth, WA 6004.

Central Reserves Area including Surveyor-Generals Corner and Sandy Blight Junction Road:

Central Reserves Area (which extends some little way over the WA borders into both NT and SA), is primarily administered by the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council. A permit is required to transit the following roads and tracks, or that part of them which falls within the Central Reserves Area: The Great Central Road, the Heather Highway, the Gunbarrel Highway, the Gary Highway, the abandoned section of the Old Gunbarrel Highway, the Giles-Mulga Park Road (from Warakurna to Wingellina) including access to Surveyor-Generals Corner, the WA parts of the Gary Junction Road and the Sandy Blight Junction Road, the Connie Sue Highway and the Anne Beadell Highway. It also includes the Docker River area (but not the Community) which is actually in NT. (Docker River is one of those areas where you will need two permits. The WA permit takes you essentially from the Docker River Community, west across the border and on down the Great Central Road. (For the NT side permit, see the NT pdf download)).

Permits for the Great Central Road and for the Heather Highway (which is the only approved access to the Gunbarrel Highway heading west or egress from it heading east), and the "Cosmo-Newberry" and Yamarna to Neale Junction section of the Anne Beadell Highway are obtainable on-line from the Aboriginal Lands Trust, (see above). They are also available from the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council itself. Thus for all other roads and

tracks in the Central Reserves area (but excluding the Gary Highway, (see below)), you should make application to the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council.

The Ngaanyatjarra Land Council has a website at: www.ngaanyatjarra.org.au/. A permit "Application Pack" is available on the website **but on-line permit processes are not available**. A Permit "Application Pack" can be downloaded from the website together with lots of good information. Just click on the "Permits" button on the Home page and then on "Getting a Permit". Other information about "Who Requires a Permit" and "Areas where Permits are Required" is also available on the website. There is also a heading of "Surveyor-Generals Corner", but currently there is no information available when you click on the that heading. (See Surveyor-Generals Corner below).

Once you have downloaded your Permit "Application Pack" and completed all the documentation required, it can be posted or emailed to:

The Permits Officer,
Ngaanyatjarra Land Council,
P.O. Box 644,
Alice Springs, NT 0871

Telephone (08) 8950 1711
Fax is (08) 8953 1892

Their email address is: ngcouncil@ngaanyatjarra.org.au

Their office address is: Shop 6, 56-58 Head Street, Alice Springs. Even though the vast majority of the Central Reserves Area is Ngaanyatjarra Land and is primarily in WA, the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council office is located in Alice Springs.

It should be noted that the map available on the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council web site attaches the Gunbarrel Highway (up to about the western edge of the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve) to the permit for the Heather Highway. By way of contrast, the "Goldfields" part of the map on the Department of Aboriginal Affairs/Aboriginal Lands Trust website only shows a Permit being required for the Heather Highway, but NOT for the Gunbarrel Highway. Thus an application to the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council for a Permit for the Heather Highway should also include the Gunbarrel Highway. No matter how you look at it though, a Permit to transit the Heather Highway would almost by default include the Gunbarrel Highway as the Heather Highway is the only approved means of access to, or egress from the Gunbarrel Highway at its eastern end. There are a few other differences between the two maps. If one or the other shows that a permit is required for the section of road or track, or the area you wish to visit, then it would be appropriate and advisable to actually apply for a permit to the organisation whose map shows such a requirement.

Note also that NO ACCESS IS ALLOWED on the Gunbarrel Highway between Jackie Junction and the Gunbarrel/Heather Highway intersection.

There is another website which also contains a lot of great information for tourists. It is www.ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au/, it includes information about the fantastic art gallery located at Warburton known as the Tjulyuru Cultural Centre, as well as details of accommodation and services available at the Warakurna, Warburton and Tjukayirla Roadhouses; Road Reports (which are regularly updated); a link to the "Outback Way" (aka Great Central Road) web site, and information about applying for a Permit to visit Surveyor-Generals Corner. (Currently however, the Surveyor-Generals Corner information is not up to date - see "Surveyor-Generals Corner" below). Just click on the "Tourist Information" button on the left hand side of the Home page, then click on "Aboriginal Land Permits".

Just by way of information, the Federal Government recently provided a grant of \$33 Million to begin the upgrade of the Great Central Road. Work is expected to commence in July, 2014. So essentially, those monies will probably begin the process of turning the Great Central Road, together with the Tjukaruru Road, the Plenty Highway, the Donohue Highway and the Kennedy Developmental Road into the "world's longest short-cut" which will eventually link Perth with Cairns on a diagonal right through the middle of the continent. Some stretches of bitumen already exist on the Great Central Road.

The Ngaanyatjarra Council generally applies a maximum period of three (3) days within which you can remain in the Central Reserves Area for the purpose of any transits. The Council has an option to increase this period if you make a specific request in your written application. For example, you might wish to transit a number of tracks. Just bear in mind that anything you might ask for that is in excess of the normally allowed transit period, or is "unusual" in any way, can dramatically increase the time period for consideration of your application. So ensure that you make your application in ample time.

Surveyor-Generals Corner

The www.ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au/ website makes a reference to Surveyor-Generals Corner but currently no information is actually available on the site.

Applications for a permit to visit Surveyor-Generals Corner should be made in writing utilising the downloadable Permit "Application Pack" available on the www.ngaanyatjarra.org.au/ website, however, there is no specific information provided on that website either.

Permits for Surveyor-Generals Corner have come down in price recently and currently (May, 2014), they only cost \$50 per vehicle. If you require a guide to take you out to the Corner, that can be arranged via the Irrunytju (Wingellina) Community at a cost of \$50. Just bear in mind however, that escorts are drawn from the Wingellina Community, and may not always be available.

Once you have your permit there is no longer any requirement for you to actually call in to the Office within the Community. However, the Community is keen for visitors to the Corner to call in to the Art Centre operated by the Community. If you would like to do that, then it would be worthwhile talking to the Development Advisor at the Community prior to your visit.

And, if you make a polite request, they might give you permission to remain at the Corner for a late morning tea or lunch and to utilise the small shelter shed and BBQ they have built nearby.

Write, email or telephone the Development Advisor at:

Irrunytju Community,
PMB 52,
Wingellina
via Alice Springs NT 0872

Telephone (08) 8956 7998
Fax is (08) 8956 7514

The email address is: irrunytjucda@nglands.org.au

The "Abandoned section of the Old Gunbarrel Highway"

There are very special provisions applying to an application for a Permit to transit the "Abandoned section of the Old Gunbarrel Highway", which begins at a turn off from the Great Central Road about 16 k's south of Warakurna and ends at the Great Central Road about 35 k's north of Warburton.

Those provisions are:

1. Write to or contact the Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation acknowledging that you are doing this trip "at your own risk" as this section of the Gunbarrel has been closed for some time and the condition of the road is unknown;
2. There must be two (2) or more vehicles travelling but not more than five (5) vehicles in total (in any one party);
3. The travelling party must be equipped with effective communication equipment (e.g., HF radio or satellite phone, etc.);

4. If there are more than five (5) vehicles in the travelling party, they must travel in two separate groups of (5) vehicles or less, with a minimum of two (2) in either group, and they must start their trip at least a day apart;
5. You must also adhere to all standard conditions attached to any transit permit.

Applications utilising the standard Permit "Application Pack" from the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council web site and including the additional written application requirements above, should be addressed to the Permits Officer, Ngaanyatjarra Land Council at the address in Alice Springs shown above.

Remember to include the HF Radio contact details and/or satellite phone numbers.

Sandy Blight Junction Road and Gary Junction Road

The Sandy Blight Junction Road and the Gary Junction Road are two other examples of tracks where two permits are required. One permit is required for the parts that fall within Western Australia (via the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council) and another for the parts that fall within the Northern Territory, (via the Central Land Council). Access to the Sandy Blight Junction Road was reviewed a few years ago and permits to transit that part of the road which falls within the NT are once again being issued by the NT Central Land Council. (See NT pdf).

Gary Highway:

A permit is not required to transit the Gary Highway, however to access, or egress from the Gary Highway in the north, permits for the Gary Junction Road and/or the Canning Stock Route (if that is how you intend to access or egress from the Gary Highway) are required. Please also note that access to Veevers Meteorite Crater is no longer available. (See Great Sandy Desert section below).

Hunt Oil Road and the David Carnegie Highway (south of the Gunbarrel Highway)

Information from the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council in 2013 indicates that Permits are not required to transit either the Hunt Oil Road or that part of the David Carnegie Road south of the Gunbarrel Highway.

David Carnegie Road (aka Eagle Highway) north of the Gunbarrel Highway

For information on access to this road, please see the section on "The Warri Site and Ngarinarri Claypan" below.

Kimberley Communities generally:

Inquiries from the Kimberley Land Council at Derby, (telephone (08) 9193 1118), show that if you wish to visit any communities in the northern area of the Kimberley, (this does not include Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna) the best way is simply to report in to the Community Office on the day of your visit, (but note that the Community Offices are closed on weekends so ensure your first day of visit is on a weekday), and purchase a permit on the day. The Kimberley Land Council's Broome Office telephone is (08) 9193 6199. Also check the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Aboriginal Lands Trust website (www.daa.wa.gov.au/) as a number of Kimberley Communities (including Balgo) are nominated as having on-line permit approval processes available. Check the conditions which might apply, and particularly with respect to the automated on-line process. However, regardless of the availability of the on-line process, the advice from the Kimberley Land Council of reporting in to the particular community in the northern area does appear to be the best way of gaining permits in that area. There are also one or two roads within the Kimberley area which actually traverse native title areas but for which no permit is required. The map available on the Aboriginal Lands Trust website shows them.

Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna:

The communities of Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna fall within the south eastern corner of the Kimberley Land Council's area. Mulan and Billiluna are part of a Native Title Determination Area managed by the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (Paruku IPA). The nearest community to Lake Gregory is Mulan.

If you would like to visit the area, including accessing Lake Gregory or the Canning Stock Route from the east, there are a number of permits that you might require.

Balgo:

If you simply wish to transit Balgo to get to/from Mulan and/or Billiluna, then you will only need the Balgo transit permit which also provides access to/from the Tanami Track and thence to the Canning Stock Route. (Also see the two sections below covering the "Canning Stock Route" as a "Day Pass" is also now required to transit the Canning within the Paruku IPA). If you wish to enter the Balgo Community, to visit the Church for example, or to visit the Walayirti Artists, Balgo Art and Cultural Centre, or to purchase fuel or supplies, then you will also need a Balgo entry permit. Both permits are available on-line from www.daa.wa.gov.au/

The Balgo Community Store has a reasonable range of foodstuffs. Opal unleaded and Diesel is also available. Opening hours are 8.00 am to 12 noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, but they are not open on Saturday afternoons or Sundays. Contact the Wirrimanu

Aboriginal Corporation, Balgo, on phone (08) 9168 8017 or fax (08) 9168 8950 for further information.

Mulan and Billiluna:

The Paruku IPA communities of Mulan and Billiluna offer camping and visitation to Lake Gregory. Their community stores also offer a wide range of foodstuffs and stock both Opal unleaded and diesel fuel. Fuel is available via “Fuel Cards”, which can be purchased from the community stores in values of \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$90. Opening hours are generally 8.00 am to 12 noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday. They are not open on weekends.

Camping areas are available at two sites on Lake Gregory being the “Handover Site” and “Yunpu”, and at another site known as “Stretch Lagoon” which is just off the Canning Stock Route about 15 km’s south of Billiluna.

If you would like to camp at the “Handover Site” (which is the actual location where the High Court handed down its native title Decision with respect to the area) or at “Yunpu” you will need to contact the Paruku IPA Office, Mulan, on phone (08) 9168 8259 or fax (08) 9168 8984 or by email at shirley.brown@klc.org.au or parukurangers@klc.org.au

To camp at “Stretch Lagoon” contact the Paruku IPA Office at Billiluna on phone (08) 9168 8260 or by email at billiluna.office@klc.org.au

Opening hours for both offices are 9.00 am to 12 noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday only. Each of the offices can issue “Day Passes” to enter the Paruku IPA and camping permits for each of the three camping areas. “Day Passes” and camping permits may be purchased directly from the Paruku IPA offices or in advance. If camping permits are purchased in advance however, you will still need to call into one or other of the Paruku offices to log your trip and be given current road and track information; and remember the offices are not open on weekends.

Camping fees of \$30 per vehicle for the first night and then \$10 per night thereafter apply at all three sites. A “Day Pass” to enter the Paruku IPA is \$10 per vehicle. So to enter the Paruku IPA it would cost you \$10 for your “Day Pass”, and then to camp consecutively say, one night each at the “Handover Site”, “Yunpu” and then “Stretch Lagoon”, would cost \$30 for the first night and then \$10 each for the other two nights.

An excellent booklet on the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area is available from both Mulan and Billiluna.

The Mulan Aboriginal Corporation Office itself can be contacted on the same telephone and/or fax as the Mulan Paruku IPA office or by email at mulan.office@bigpond.com

The Billiluna Mindibungu Aboriginal Corporation itself can be contacted on phone (08) 9168 8988 or fax (08) 9168 8983.

Re The Canning Stock Route:

N.B.: The Paruku IPA booklet states quite clearly that: "Tourists driving through the Paruku IPA along the Canning Stock Route will require a "Day Pass" ". Access is available direct to the Canning Stock Route from Mulan in the north, (via a track which joins the Canning about 20 km's south of Billiluna) and in the south via a track which traverses the southern edge of Lake Gregory and joins the Canning approximately 2 km's south of Well 51. (Also see below under the heading of "*Canning Stock Route*").

Kalumburu:

To visit Kalumburu you will need to gain two Permits. The first is available via the Aboriginal Lands Trust in Perth. This can be done on-line at www.daa.wa.gov.au and is free. This Permit however, only gives you permission to enter the Kalumburu Reserve. Once you get to the Kalumburu Community you will also need to gain a Kalumburu Recreation Entry Permit. These can be obtained, at a cost of \$50 per vehicle per week, (August, 2010) from the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation Office, (see below). (Kalumburu Recreation Entry Permits also used to be able to be purchased at the Kununurra Visitor Information Centre ((08) 9168 1177), and from the Ooraro Community Store at Kalumburu, however this is no longer the case). You can apply direct by fax or email to the Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation. A cheque for \$50 made out to the same body will also need to be sent. Allow at least a month for the permit to be returned to you. The Corporation's telephone number is (08) 9161 4300 and the fax is: (08) 9161 4331. Their email is ceo@kalumburu.org Fuel is not available in Kalumburu over the weekend. The Corporation Office is also closed over the weekend. The Ooraro Community Store can be contacted on (08) 9161 4575.

Kalumburu Community also have a website at www.kalumburu.org which in the main is still under development, however there is some information available if you click on the "Visitors" section of the Home page.

Once you arrive at Kalumburu there is only one place to camp in the Community itself, and that is at the Catholic Mission. The Mission can be contacted on (08) 9161 4333. Their camp site is well grassed, shady and cool, with good showers and toilets. Well worth the modest charge. Camping further up on the coast is available at Honeymoon Bay, (telephone (08) 9161 4378), at a cost of \$20 per person per day, and at McGowan's Island ((08) 9161 4748) also at a cost of \$20 per person per day. These camping areas are operated by members of the Community. A further camp site, also to be operated by a member of the Community, is being developed at Beauty Point (also known as Red Bluff). Inquiries about this site can be made at the Corporation's Office. Camping is no longer available at Pago.

You can also sometimes gain permission to camp within Drysdale National Park. Access is only available through the Carson River Pastoral Station which is operated by the Community, so it all depends on what mustering or other activities might be happening on the Station. A Recreation Entry Permit is required to access any of the camping areas and to gain access through Carson River Pastoral Station.

Access to Truscott Airfield, Winanghie Beach and west of the King Edward River is prohibited.

Cape Leveque:

If you wish to visit Cape Leveque contact the Broome Visitors Information Centre on (08) 9192 2222. Whilst again, the Aboriginal Lands Trust website says you must have a permit to drive the road out to Cape Leveque, the Broome Visitors Centre is of the view that such information is way out of date. This is probably quite correct as the actual printouts from the on-line Permit process with the Lands Trust notes that the road to Cape Leveque is a public road. BUT! You do need booked accommodation to enter the Cape Leveque area. The Visitors Centre can make a booking for you at either the camping area or at the other (range of) accommodations available at the Cape, which is highly advisable. During popular times of school holidays and long weekends, all of the available accommodation, including camping can be booked out months in advance, so it is advisable to book well ahead.

Accessing Communities generally:

If you wish to access actual communities, then it is generally best to ring that community and speak to them direct regarding any requirements.

Purnululu National Park (aka The Bungle Bungles):

It is now a requirement that you must pre-book your campsite in Purnululu National Park before you arrive.

Whilst our experience in previous years, (and last year (2013) when we discovered this new requirement) has been that there are usually plenty of vacant camp sites, one of the Park workers told us that there have been occasions recently when there have been no vacant camp sites during school holidays, which apparently prompted the introduction of the advance booking system.

And, whilst it also appears from what we witnessed in the Park Office that they won't turn you around and send you back out if you haven't pre-booked, that is conditional on

them having vacant sites. If all sites are booked though you could well find yourself being turned around and sent back.

Signs at the track entrance to the Bungles off the Great Northern Highway suggest booking online at www.dec.wa.gov.au/campgrounds or by phoning the Department of Environment & Conservation (DEC) at Kununurra on 08 9168 4200. The telephone number for the Office right out at the Park itself is 08 9168 7300 and their email address is calmpurn@wn.com.au

When we discovered the need to pre-book, we were in Hall's Creek and made our booking via the Visitor Centre there. Their telephone number is 08 9168 6262.

Another recent change is that single axle, high clearance, "towable units" (to quote a sign at the entrance off the Highway) are also now permitted in the Park. But, if you arrive at the Park office with a dual axle "towable unit", (including a simple box trailer) you WILL be sent straight back out again.

The good news however is that additional sites have been put in at the camping areas. More long drops, and additional water taps have also been installed.

And there is more good news for caravaners, or dual axle "towable unit" owners. There is now a new Caravan Park, with flush loos and showers, located just inside the track entrance off the Highway. It is owned and operated by the pastoral property (Mabel Downs) over whose track you need to travel to get out to the Bungle Bungles. Last year (2013) they were charging \$22 per day to simply store your van, or \$45 per night for a powered site. Helicopter flights and day tours also operate from the Caravan Park. And amazingly, last year there was a mobile coffee van at the entrance in off the Highway serving very acceptable coffee at a very acceptable price.

The other good news is that one of the commercial operators out at the Bungles, has opened their dining and bar facilities to visitors who are camped at the Bungle Bungle camping areas. So if you are camped out there and would like to give the cook a night off, contact East Kimberley Tours at their Bungle Bungle Bushcamp on 08 9168 7339, and make a booking. Last year (2013) we paid \$50 per head for a very nice roast lamb buffet meal, followed by dessert. (Perhaps a little high in price, but hey, it's the only show in town!!). Beer was about \$5 a stubby, and a good selection of wine was also available.

All those changes have opened up a whole new range of options for visitors, including accommodation and tour options.

There has also been some major improvements to, and widening of, many areas of the track in. The large area of gypsum, which had been ground into a fine bulldust of white powder has either been by-passed or buried, as it was (thankfully) no longer evident on the trip in. A couple of other and less desirable problems however are becoming very evident. Due to the widening of many parts of the track, and the much improved track conditions, the speed of some vehicles which we observed was way, way too fast, almost

resulting in head on collisions. So PLEASE, PLEASE observe the maximum posted speed limit of 50 km/h on the track, and take it very, very easy on the bends. The drivers of some of the big 4WD buses operating on the track have reported some very near misses. Whilst a collision at best might simply ruin your holiday, it can have a devastating effect on a Tour Operator, as their livelihood can be at stake. And also, PLEASE, PLEASE do as the signs at the entrance requests and lower those tyre pressures. It assists in keeping the corrugations at bay, and will give you a much more comfortable ride!

Hamersley Iron Railway Line:

To drive the access track which parallels the Hamersley Iron Railway Line from Tom Price to Dampier you MUST apply IN PERSON at any of: the Tom Price Tourist Information Service (08) 9188 1112; the Karratha Visitor Centre (08) 9144 4600; the Roebourne Visitor Centre (08) 9182 1060 or the Pannawonica Office & Library (08) 9184 1038. You MUST do this in person as you will be required to sit through about a 20 minute video which mainly concentrates on the rail safety aspects of the trip, and then you will be issued with your permit. The permit is free, but you may be asked to make a donation to a nominated local charity or hospital. Please do so.

The Transcontinental Railway:

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) has confirmed that the only publicly accessible parts of the access road which runs parallel to the transcontinental rail line are those parts between Kalgoorlie and Haig in Western Australia and between Kingoonya and a point a short distance west of where the recently realigned northern end of Googs Track now exits to the transcontinental rail access road in South Australia. Both of those sections remain gazetted as public roads.

It is thus illegal to travel east of Haig or essentially west of the Googs Track northern exit point utilising the rail access road. It is private property and absolutely no permits are being issued. This situation arose consequent to the corporatisation of Australian National Railways some years ago. Regrettably, there had been far too many instances of travelers breaking down, or needing help, and they were, incredibly, flagging down the trains! Management have simply barred access and will have transgressors dealt with as trespassers. The fine can be quite hefty. You have been warned!

Additionally, ARTC advise that the only places where it is legal to actually cross the rail line are at properly constructed and marked rail crossings.

Canning Stock Route:

Over the last few years there have been a number of significant changes with respect to the gaining of Permits to transit the Canning Stock Route. And, whilst previous information on this website provided quite detailed information, much of that information has been omitted from this update due to there now being two websites where on-line applications may be made for one or other of the required two Permits. Both of those websites also contain quite detailed information regarding the Canning and/or a quite detailed information booklet can be ordered with your Permit.

N.B.: Two, yes, two (2) permits are now required to traverse the full length of the Canning Stock Route.

Of the two Permits required, one of them covers Wells 5 to 15 and Wells 40 to 51. The other website covers Wells 16 to 39. Each website makes a reference to the other and provides a link.

No Permit is required to travel between Wiluna and Well 5, but travelers should take particular note that much of the Canning in that area traverses private pastoral properties and various restrictions have been applied by those properties. The restrictions relate to the size of vehicle and the towing of trailers, campers, etc. Charges also apply if you wish to use some nominated station tracks to actually access the Canning. The pastoral property owners also may, or may not allow you to actually tow anything over their tracks, or drive a vehicle larger than say, a Toyota Landcruiser or Land Rover Defender 130 over their tracks. Additional charges might also be levied should the property owners actually give you permission to use such a vehicle. The Hema Great Desert Series South West map contains much of that information, and it is also available on both web sites. Appropriate contact details are also provided on both the map and on the websites.

Wells 5 to 15 and 40 to 51

Go to www.canningstockroute.net.au and read all of the information on the Home page and the information contained under each of the "buttons" on the Home page before Clicking on the "Permits" button. Some of the information contained under each of the "buttons" on the Home page will surprise you and give you some good insights into just what is happening on the Canning, how it is being managed and why, and the areas where you can and cannot go. Great "contact" details are also provided. When you click on the "Permits" button, it will take you into what is essentially a "home page" for the "Permits" section. Please read all of that information, including the provisions that apply should you wish to camp at "Stretch Lagoon", which is in the north near Lake Gregory. A "link" is provided in two places within the information on that "home" page which will take you into the "Visitor Permit System" part of the website. When you then click on one of those two links, you will be taken to a further "home" page. It is highly recommended again, that you read all of the information on that "home page" before you actually click

on the "Apply for Permit" button at the top of that "home page" which will finally get you into the beginning of the actual application process.. The information on that last "home page" is important as it sets out the costs involved in gaining a Permit and outlines the provisions applying to "Refunds" including charges.

If you are reading this and don't have access to the web, then a manual application process is provided over the telephone. An additional charge of \$22 is applied for the use of the manual system. Please call (08) 9425 2099 or +61 8 9425 2099 for international callers. A further administration charge of \$11 is also applied should payment not be made electronically.

The current charge (May 2014) per vehicle for traversing the Canning over Wells 5 to 15 and Wells 40 to 51 is \$50. For a heavier vehicle (bigger than say, a Toyota Landcruiser or Land Rover Defender 130) it is \$100.

Please particularly note that the towing of anything over the Canning is definitely NOT recommended. If you wish to tow anything through Wells 5 to 15 and/or Wells 40 to 51 then an additional charge of \$25 will be levied, and of course you will also need the permission of the appropriate private pastoral lease holders between the start of the Canning and Well 5, and pay any additional levy imposed by them should they actually give you permission to tow anything over their tracks.

Wells 16 to 39

Go to www.anfwdc.asn.au and click on the rather large "Canning Stock Route" button (containing a picture of a Landrover Defender) which is located in about the centre of the web page. Read all of the information contained on the site before clicking on the "Apply for Permit" at the very end of the site.

There is a wealth of information that you need to be aware of contained on the web site including: the cost involved (which is \$100 per vehicle); places where you can go whilst traversing the Canning; places where you can't go; and other places you can go by applying for a further special permit plus contact information; contact details if you are unable to pay electronically for your permit, and a whole range of other, very pertinent information and contact particulars.

(The initials ANFWDC in the web address stand for the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council. The Council has been in existence since 1984, and comprises representatives from the various State 4WD Clubs' Associations. It is also now known simply as "4WD Australia").

Other General Information re travelling the Canning Stock Route

Whilst the first of those two (2) permits has been required for some time now to traverse the Martu Lands between Wells 5 and 40, the second permit requirement has only recently come to notice. The second permit, known as a “Day Pass” is a requirement of the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (Paruku IPA) which is located essentially between Billiluna and Well 51. The cost of the required “Day Pass” is \$10 per vehicle. Further information is contained below under the sub-heading of “Paruku IPA and the Canning Stock Route”.

N.B.: Do not apply to the Ngaanyatjarra Council in Alice Springs for a Permit in relation to the Canning Stock Route, and do not apply to the Aboriginal Lands Trust in Perth. Neither organisation has any involvement in the issuing of Permits for the Canning. The **only** organisations which currently (2014) have approval to issue Permits for the Canning are the proprietors of the two websites nominated above.

Paruku IPA and the Canning Stock Route:

Canning Stock Route travelers when moving between essentially Billiluna and Well 51 are actually traversing areas of land granted native title under the Tjurabalan Native Title Determination.

The Paruku Indigenous Protected Area (Paruku IPA) was declared in 2001, and is a part of the larger Tjurabalan Determined Area. IPA’s can be likened to an indigenous national park. Paruku IPA is managed by the Kimberley Land Council, and was the first IPA declared in Western Australia.

The management of Paruku IPA thus made a decision some time ago that: “Tourists driving through Paruku IPA along the Canning Stock Route will require a “Day Pass” ”. Currently, a “Day Pass” costs \$10 per vehicle. They are obtainable from the Paruku IPA Office, Mulan, on phone (08) 9168 8259 and fax (08) 9168 8984 or by email at shirley.brown@klc.org.au or parukurangers@klc.org.au. “Day Passes” are also available from the Billiluna Paruku IPA Office on phone (08) 9168 8260 or email billiluna.office@klc.org.au

A “Day Pass” can also be purchased directly from the Paruku IPA Offices at Billiluna or Mulan, but only during office hours which are: 9.00 am to 12 noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday only. (For further information and for permits to camp at three sites within the Paruku IPA, please see the information above under the heading of *Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna* near the beginning of this pdf). Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna communities are part of the Kimberley Land Council.

Please note that currently, neither the ANFWDC nor the Aboriginal Lands Trust in Perth can issue “Day Passes” to traverse the Paruku IPA. However, representatives of Paruku IPA and the Martu are in discussions in an endeavour to incorporate the requirements of

the Paruku IPA within the permit process currently operated by the ANFWDC on behalf of the Martu and Birriliburu.

Access to the Canning from the east:

To access the Canning Stock Route from the east via the communities of Balgo and/or Mulan, please see the “*Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna*” information above near the beginning of this pdf. Balgo, Mulan and Billiluna communities are part of the Kimberley Land Council.

Fuel and Supplies:

Travellers on the Canning Stock Route should note that the Capricorn Roadhouse in Newman is seriously considering abandoning the delivery of fuel to their dump at Well 23 due to a number of serious problems that have arisen over the years. If, in planning a Canning Stock Route trip, consideration is being given to refueling by way of the Capricorn Roadhouse fuel dump at Well 23, please call them well and truly in advance to ascertain the current situation. Their telephone number is (08) 9175 1535.

Fuel is available at the Kunawarritji Community near Well 33. They have both diesel and unleaded available via bowsers. Opening hours are: Monday to Friday: 8.00 am to 12 noon then 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Saturday is 8.00 am to 12 noon. They are closed on Sundays and Public Holidays. (An “Out of Hours” opening service is available for a fee). Kunawarritji also offers a reasonably well stocked shop (same hours as the fuel). Unique souvenirs, clothing and art work is also available. Internet access is also available at a reasonable charge. They also offer some “donga” accommodation and camping at the Community with showers, toilets and a laundry, but it would be worth checking with them as to whether or not the camping, accommodation and/or laundry and shower facilities are currently available. Kunawarritji can be contacted on (08) 9176 9040 or fax on (08) 9176 9080. Their email is kunawarritji@bigpond.com Camping is also available at Well 33 itself.

Fuel and supplies are also available at Billiluna. Fuel however, is only available at Billiluna via “fuel cards” which can only be purchased from the Community Store in values of \$10, \$20, \$30, \$50 and \$90. The Community Store at Billiluna is open Monday to Friday from 8.00 am to 11.00 am and 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm, and on Saturday from 8.30 am to 10.30 am. The Store is closed Saturday afternoon and Sundays. The Mindibungu Aboriginal Corporation at Billiluna can be contacted on phone (08) 9168 8988 or fax (08) 9168 8983.

Parngurr Community (Cotton Creek) also usually has diesel available from a gauged, gravity fed tank, but you MUST telephone the Community Coordinator at least two weeks ahead to order fuel. ULP in 200 litre drums can also be bought in for you on pre-

paid special order; any such arrangements should be made well in advance. Their opening hours are very short and usually limited to Monday to Friday. If you need any supplies, they also have a reasonably stocked small supermarket, so when you ring you could also check whether you can get access to the shop. Well made souvenirs and some good artwork are also available. Parngurr is located in the south eastern corner of Rudall River National Park. The turn off onto the 21 kilometre track to Parngurr is located 61 kilometres east of Georgia Bore (near Well 22) on the Talawana Track. They can be contacted on (08) 9176 9009. Fax is (08) 9176 9964. Their email address is cottonck@bigpond.com Showers and toilets are also available at their Visitor Centre for a fee, and inquiries can also be made about camping opportunities. There is a quite reasonable camping area with a bore and windmill adjacent to the turnoff to the Community on the Talawana Track.

Rudall River National Park:

If you would like to visit Rudall River National Park (now known as Karlamilyi National Park) and would like to discuss your plans with a “local”, please contact Richard Taylor, who is located at Parngurr on email richard.taylor@kj.org.au

Telfer Mine Road:

To traverse the Telfer Mine Road you don't need a permit, but you do need to notify the Telfer Village Superintendent of your intentions. A few weeks before your visit, either email or write to: The Village Superintendent, Newcrest Telfer Mining Road, 193 Great Eastern Highway, Belmont, WA 6104. The email address is: emma.madden@newcrest.com.au

In your correspondence please inform the Superintendent of: who you are; where and how you can be contacted; the numbers and details of vehicles including: make, colour, registration number and State of registration; driver and passengers names; and the likely date/s of being on their road; your direction of travel and destination. Don't forget to thank them for the access.

A week or two after you write or email the Village Superintendent you should receive a response back from Telfer Security giving you good information, and a mobile number to check on road conditions immediately prior to your accessing their road - the locations they provide do have mobile signal.

When you exit Rudall River National Park in the north and pass the turn off to the Telfer Newcrest Mine itself, the road you are travelling on is The Telfer Mine Road. The Telfer Mine Road extends from its intersection with the Wapet Road (which is about 110 km's west of Kunawarritji (which is very near Well 33 on the Canning)), to where it joins Rippon Hills Road about 153 km's east of Marble Bar.

A couple of things to note. Firstly, yes, if you write (by snail mail) your letter is actually addressed to Newcrest Mining Head Office in Perth. They will put it in the internal mail bag on their next flight to Telfer. This process came about consequent to Australia Post, in their wisdom, removing Telfer Village from the Australian postcode system. Additionally, there used to be a Security Check Point and Boom Gate where you were required to stop. That check point and boom gate has now apparently been moved closer to the Village itself, so you shouldn't actually come across it unless you need to access the Village. The Village is a private operation, so you should only attempt to access it in an emergency situation.

Great Sandy Desert:

Consequent to a number of Native Title Determinations, including those that resulted in Permits becoming necessary to travel the Canning Stock Route and the Kidson Track, recent decisions on transit permit requests have shown that many previously accessible areas of the Great Sandy Desert are currently not able to be accessed. For example, access to the Warri Site and Ngarinarri Claypan (but see below), Veevers Meteorite Crater, Patience Well, the Callawa Route, the Gwenneth and Percival Lakes areas and numerous other native wells, rock holes and soaks is currently not being granted.

Inquiries have been made to the appropriate parties with respect to the Great Sandy Desert, and the moment answers become available, the updated information will be made available to all of those organisations who reproduce this material on their websites.

If you wish to check on the current status of issues with the Great Sandy Desert please telephone or email the compiler of this information at the address shown in the very last section of this pdf.

Alternatively, and particularly if you would like to try for a Permit, you could try contacting the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation on (08) 9486 9797 or email reception@wdlac.com.au

Please note that Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd. who are located in Perth, have a note on their web site that they "can't assist with Permit inquiries".

The Warri Site and Ngarinarri Claypan

Currently, at the intersection of the Eagle Highway and the Gunbarrel Highway, there is a sign which forbids access north along the Eagle Highway. It clearly states: "NO TRESPASSING" and that "Access onto the Birriliburu Native Title Determined Lands is restricted at this time. The Birriliburu native title holders advise that anyone who travels in this area (including to the Carnarvon Ranges, Mt Methwin and Blue Hills Station) without consent is breaking the law". "Please Respect our Country".

To access the Warri Site and Ngarinarri Claypan from the south, you do need to drive north up the Eagle Highway, so clearly, access is forbidden from the south unless you have consent. However, no contact details have been provided on the sign. The author is not aware at this stage as to whether similar signs have been erected at the intersection of the Eagle Highway and the Gary Highway, and the intersection of the "Cleared Line" and the Talawana Track, which are the only accesses in the north, but they probably have.

The "No Trespassing" sign has been erected by the Mungarlu Ngurrarankatja Rirraunkatja Aboriginal Corporation, and whilst contact details for them cannot be found, a good place to start might also be the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation. They can be contacted on (08) 9486 9797 or email reception@wdlac.com.au

Please note that Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd. who are located in Perth, have a note on their web site that they "can't assist with Permit inquiries".

Steep Point:

Steep Point, the westernmost point on mainland Australia was, up to about 5 years ago, located on private property. However, the Government in WA purchased the whole area, so Steep Point, (including Crayfish Point and False Entrance), is now being managed as a National Park by the (relatively new) Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPAW).

This means that the normal charges applicable within many National Parks in WA for entry to the Park and overnight camping now apply. (See below under "Entry and Camping Fees in National Parks"). Western Australian All Parks and/or Holiday Park Passes are able to be used for entry to Steep Point.

The previous Rangers, (Paul and Pam) have been appointed as Rangers by the Department of Environment and Conservation and continue to reside in the Ranger's residence.

As at August, 2010, there was no mention on the DEC website (www.naturebase.net) regarding Steep Point, however, the DEC Office at Denham (Shark Bay) have recently included very comprehensive information about Steep Point together with a camping permit request document on the Shark Bay website. Go to www.sharkbay.org.au then click on "Visitor Guide & Interactive Maps" and then "Steep Point & Edel Land". If you require any information not available on the website, the Denham Office of DEC can be contacted on (08) 9948 1208.

The very limited numbers of camp sites are always in huge demand, so you MUST book well ahead utilising the on-line booking form available on the Steep Point part of the Shark Bay website. (Be prepared to book up to 12 months ahead for some periods of the year). Camping is also available at False Entrance, but again, you MUST use the

booking form available on the website. Entry fees also apply at False Entrance and Crayfish Bay, and to access the Blowholes at Thunder Bay.

DPaW have retained the requirement that you MUST lower your tyre pressures to at least 20 psi when you come to the first sand dunes, so make sure you have an operating air compressor to re-inflate your tyres once you leave. And, consistent with travel in any remote location, you should also have an operating UHF radio, plus a satphone or VHF radio, or EPIRB.

Day trips are of course still able to be undertaken, and the appropriate Park entry fee will apply. A trip from Hamelin Pool Caravan Park and Telegraph Station ((08) 9942 5905) to Steep Point and return can easily be completed in a day. As long as you get an early start you will have ample time to savour the views, take photos, and perhaps return via the Zuytdorp Cliffs.

Entry and Camping Fees in National Parks:

You should bear in mind that many WA National Parks charge both an entry fee and a nightly camping fee, whilst others only charge a camping fee. Some are totally free. Quite a number of those fees are payable by way of self registration when you enter the park. Other parks have ranger stations to which you must report, and others are controlled by the very friendly, effective and efficient “Park Hosts” system. Entry fees where applicable (as at August 2010) are generally \$11 per vehicle or \$5 concession. Camping fees where applicable (as at August, 2010) will be \$11.00, \$9.00 or \$7.00 per adult per night depending on the facilities available. The concession rates are \$8.00 or \$5.00 per adult per night, but bear in mind that a few parks do not offer a concession rate. School age children under 16 are generally \$2.00 each per night wherever camping fees apply. Signs at entry points generally advise of the situation applying in the particular park.

Fees payable in some camping areas managed by commercial operators in some WA National Parks may be higher than those indicated above.

WA is currently developing an on-line campground booking process which will cover most of their more popular National Parks.

If you are going to be in WA for some time, you might like to consider gaining a “WA All Parks Pass” before you go. This Pass in 2010 cost just \$80 or \$50 if you have a concession card and gives you access to all* WA National Parks as many times as you like within a 12 month period. A “Holiday Parks Pass” is also available for \$40 (no concessions) which gives unlimited access to all* WA National Parks for a one month period. Neither pass covers any camping fees which may be applicable. The Passes are obtainable on-line from Exploroz or from the WA Department of Environment and Conservation, (see below).

*N.B.: Neither pass covers entry fees to the Tree Top Walk, Penguin Island, Geikie Gorge boat trip, Dryandra Woodland or the Monkey Mia Reserve, and may also exclude entry to some special events in various Parks.

The website for the relatively new WA Department of Parks and Wildlife is www.dpaw.wa.gov.au or you can apply direct to the Department at Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, WA 6983. Telephone (08) 9334 0333 or fax (08) 9334 0498, and ask for a Customer Service Officer. The website also contains contact details for a whole host of smaller retail outlets where the various entry passes are obtainable.

N.B.: When you log on to www.dpaw.wa.gov.au to purchase a pass, click on “Parks & Recreation” then “Visitor Information” then “Park Passes & Fees” and then you can apply on-line via “our on-line shop”.

The website is very informative and contains heaps of information to assist you with your trip planning including current access restrictions and seasonal closures.

Road Conditions:

For road conditions in WA before you go, or whilst you are away go to www.mainroads.wa.gov.au and click on “Road and Traffic Info” or alternatively go to www.exploroz.com/Roads/Default.aspx for up to date conditions.

Can I get a Concession?:

Don't forget, if you are dealing with a National Park Service or any Government Agency, and you have a Seniors Card or a Pension Card of some description; always ask whether a Seniors Discount is available. In most cases the answer is, yes!

Disclaimer:

Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this information, no responsibility can be accepted for either the accuracy of the contents or for any errors or omissions.

With your assistance we might also endeavour to maintain this information in an updated form. So if you wish to amend, or add to any of the information contained in this article, please contact the undersigned on (02) 9523 9266 or email john.greig@bigpond.com

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