

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

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 Trust is a part of the Department of Indigenous Affairs. Applications can be made on-line at www.dia.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 DIA 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 showing the Land Council areas; simply click on the area you want to visit.

The Trust can be contacted at: The Permits Officer, Aboriginal Lands Trust, PO Box 7770, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA 6850. Telephone (08) 9235 8000 or Fax (08) 9235 8088.

Central Reserves Area including Surveyor-General’s Corner and Sandy Blight Junction Road:

Central Reserves Area (which extends some little way over the borders into both NT and SA), includes: The Great Central Road, the Gunbarrel Highway, the Gary Highway, the abandoned section of the Old Gunbarrel Highway, Giles-Mulga Park Road from Warakurna to Wingellina and Surveyor General’s Corner, and the WA parts of the Gary Junction Road and the Sandy Blight Junction Road. It also includes the Docker River area (but not the Community) which is actually in NT. (Docker River is another of those areas where you will need two permits. The WA side takes you essentially from the Docker River Community, west across the border and on down the Great Central Road. (For the NT side, see 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) are obtainable on line from the Aboriginal Lands Trust. (See above).

For all other tracks in the Central Reserves area (but excluding the Gary Highway and the Gunbarrel Highway – see below) **apply in writing** to the Ngaanyatjarra Council, P.O. Box 644, Alice Springs, NT 0871. They are located at Shop 6, 56-58 Head Street, Alice Springs. Telephone (08) 8950 1711. Fax is (08) 8953 1892. Even though the vast majority of the Central Reserves Area is in WA, the Land Council office is located in Alice Springs.

The Ngaanyatjarra Land Council does have a website at: www.tjulyuru.com **but on-line permit processes are not available.**

The site does however contain a lot of great information for tourists, including information about the fantastic art gallery located at Warburton, and details of accommodation which is available at the Warakurna, Warburton and Tjukayirla Roadhouses. (For accommodation and other tourist information, go to their website and click on any of the red buttons and then “Tourism” or “Tjulyuru” then “About the Centre” and then “Tourism”).

Permits for Surveyor-General’s Corner are \$100 per vehicle plus \$25 per person, (August, 2010). For your money you get an escort/guide to take you out there and tell you a bit about the history of the Corner, and, if you make the request from your guide/escort, they might give you permission to remain at the Corner for a late morning tea or lunch and to utilise the small shelter shed they have built there.

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 Council) and another for the parts that fall within the Northern Territory, (via the Central Land Council). Access to the Sandy Blight Junction Road has recently been reviewed 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.

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 however, if you make a specific request in your written application to facilitate for example, a transit of a number of tracks.

Gary Highway:

A Permit is not required to transit the Gary Highway, however to access 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 the Gary Highway) are required. Please also note that access to Vevers Meteorite Crater is no longer available. (See Great Sandy Desert section below).

Gunbarrel Highway including Abandoned Section:

Permits are **not** being issued for travel on the part of the Gunbarrel Highway between Jackie Junction and the Heather Highway/Gunbarrel Highway intersection. Access to or exit from the Gunbarrel Highway at its eastern end **must** be via the Heather Highway, for which you **must** have a permit.

A Permit is not required to transit the Gunbarrel Highway between the Heather Highway Junction and Wiluna.

Very special conditions apply for travel along the Abandoned Section of the Old Gunbarrel Highway between Warakurna and Warburton. A permit is required. Details may be obtained from the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council.

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 at least 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 Indigenous Affairs, Aboriginal Lands Trust website (www.dia.wa.gov.au) as a number of Kimberley Communities (including Balgo) are nominated as having on-line permit approvals. 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.

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.dia.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 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.

In September, 2010, camping fees of \$30 per vehicle for the first night and then \$10 per night thereafter applied 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.dia.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.

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.

Telfer Mine Road:

To traverse the Telfer Mine Road you don't need a permit, but you do need to notify the Mine Manager of your intentions. A few weeks before your visit write a letter to: The Village Manager, Newcrest Mining, Telfer, WA 6762, informing the Manager 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. You will have to stop at a Security Check Point.

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:

N.B.: Two, yes, two (2) permits are now required to traverse the full length of 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 15 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”.

The land between Wells 5 to 15 falls within the Birriliburu Native Title Determination granted to the Martu people from that area in 2008. This Determination also includes the Carnarvon Range, access to which is currently unavailable. Central Desert Native Title Services have advised that whilst the current Permit issued by the ANFWDC does not specifically cover the area between Wells 5 to 15, travelers on the Canning must still stay within the public right of way.

It should also be noted that the Ngurrara people have been granted Exclusive Possession Native Title over an area that includes the Canning Stock Route between Well 40 to Well 50. Whilst an additional permit is not required to traverse this area, travelers cannot deviate from the recognized Canning wheel tracks in that area unless they have approval from the Traditional Owners. Whilst the Canning Stock Route Reserve itself is excised from the Native Title Determination, the wheel tracks in the area between Wells 40 and 50 are often well outside the Stock Route Reserve itself. Again, no difficulties should be encountered within this area as long as travelers restrict their access to the wheel tracks themselves.

With respect to the first required Permit:

From May, 2007, and consequent to a Native Title Determination in favour of the Martu people, the holding of an appropriate Permit has become necessary if you wish to visit any of the very numerous Aboriginal Sites located either on, or adjacent to, the Canning Stock Route between Wells 15 to 40. There are a whole series of such sites which includes many of the wells and “waters”.

Essentially, all of the land adjacent to the Canning Stock Route Reserve between Well 5 and Well 40 has been granted to either the Birriliburu (Wells 5 to 15) or Martu people (Wells 15 to 40) under the Native Title Act, 1993, and is now restricted access land. So in essence, if you wish to leave the actual Canning Stock Route vehicular track between those two Wells, a permit to do so is now required. And, even though some of the sites are actually located within the Stock Route Reserve, they are nonetheless registered and

protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972, and as such, a permit is required to visit them.

The actual gazetted Canning Stock Route Reserve itself is generally about 8 kilometres wide. In the main, the vehicular track that you follow stays within the Reserve. However, there are quite a number of locations where the track itself is actually outside of, the gazetted Reserve. At times, it is up to 10 kilometres outside it. This should not however cause any difficulties, provided you remain on the track itself, and do not deviate from it unless you have the appropriate Permit.

If you simply wish to travel the Canning Stock Route itself, and have no intention whatever of deviating from it, (and that includes for the purposes of camping at night, or collecting water from any of the wells, etc. located off the track), then you can do so without the need for the first mentioned permit, (but note that the "Day Pass" issued by Paruku IPA will still be required). However, the moment you actually leave the vehicular track, you run the risk of entering an Aboriginal Site. You never know when you might wish to do that, either to visit a site just off the track, or for emergency reasons. The best course of action therefore is to apply for, and be in possession of a Permit that covers you for all of the areas that you may wish to visit.

The issuing of Permits for travel along the Canning Stock Route will assist in long term management of the environmentally and culturally sensitive area through which the Stock Route passes. Being in possession of the required permits will also help to ensure that any contact with Martu, and other indigenous people along the way, can be a positive encounter, helping to build trust and respect for the privilege of traveling through their land.

The Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council website (www.anfwdc.asn.au) has up to date information relating to the requirements for the first mentioned Canning Permit and is the main point of contact for information regarding that area, and, it is the ONLY point of contact for the issuing of the Permit required for travel between Wells 15 and 40. The website has an excellent Information Pack available for download including a listing of those areas where public access is permitted, and those where it may be restricted, together with an on-line permit application and payment process. (A postal application and payment process is also offered if you do not wish to use the ANFWDC secure on-line payment system).

The first mentioned Permit will be available for download and printing once your purchase is approved. If you would prefer the package to be mailed to your address, there will be additional postage charges to be added to the purchase. Current prices are \$50 per vehicle Permit and \$15 postage for the package if it is to be mailed to an address within Australia. Postage outside Australia is \$27. Permits are valid for a one month period from a date the applicant nominates.

When you log on to the ANFWDC website, there is a “Canning Stock Route” button on the home page, just click on this button and you will be taken to the Canning Stock Route part of the website.

(The Australian National Four Wheel Drive 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”).

The first mentioned Canning Stock Route Permit gives you permission to visit certain nominated sites along the Stock Route. These sites are listed on the ANFWDC website. Access to other sites is not permitted unless you have been granted specific permission by either Central Desert Native Title Services or Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation.

Please also note that access to both the Calvert Ranges and the Carnarvon Ranges is currently unavailable. For the reasons underlying these closures, please go to the “4WD Australia” (ANFWDC) website at www.anfwdc.asn.au or go to www.centraldesert.org.au with respect to the Carnarvon Ranges and www.wdlac.com.au with respect to the Calvert Ranges.

If you require any further information about the conditions that now apply along the Canning Stock Route between Wells 5 and 40, or if you want to discuss any proposed plans with an expert, and the information you require is NOT available on the ANFWDC website, there are two (2) contact points:

1. For any additional information between Wells 5 to 15, (Birriliburu area), please check the Central Desert Native Title Services website at www.centraldesert.org.au, or you can contact Rob Thomas, Manager, West Side, Central Desert Native Title Services, in Perth on telephone (08) 9425 2000 or fax (08) 9425 2001. Their postal address is: P.O. Box Y3439, East St. Georges Terrace, Perth, WA 6832. The street address is: Lower Ground Floor, 170 Wellington Street, East Perth, WA, 6004.
2. For any additional information between Wells 15 to 40, (the Martu area), please contact Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation, on (08) 9486 9797 or fax (08) 9486 9798. Their postal address is PO Box 331, West Perth, WA 6872 and their street address is 11 Gordon Street, West Perth, WA 6005.

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** organisation which currently (2010) has approval to issue the first mentioned Permit for the Canning is the Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council.

Both Central Desert Native Title Services and Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation have requested that persons proposing to travel the Canning take particular

note of the ANFWDC request re not towing anything on the Canning (see ANFWDC Home page), and the Codes of Conduct in relation to: access to Martu Lands; Camping including Campfires, Washing, Rubbish and Toilets; and “Off-Road Driving”. Please read and observe the Codes.

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.

Now, whilst the Canning Stock Route Reserve itself has been excised from the IPA and from the Tjurabalan Native Title Determined Area, the wheel tracks themselves (which all travelers on the Canning follow and regard as the Canning Stock Route) actually traverse the Paruku IPA and are in places up to 13 kilometres outside of the Stock Route Reserve itself.

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 arose in 2010. 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 were also previously offering some limited “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 still 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.

Pargurr 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 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. Pargurr 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.

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

Great Sandy Desert:

Consequent to a number of Native Title Determinations, including the one that resulted in a Permit becoming necessary to travel the Canning Stock Route between Wells 5 and 40, 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, 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.

Steep Point:

Steep Point, the westernmost point on mainland Australia was, up to about 2 years ago, located on private property. However, the Government in WA recently purchased the whole area, so Steep Point, (including Crayfish Point and False Entrance), is now being managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) as a National Park.

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.

DEC have retained the requirement that you MUST lower your tyre pressures to 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, or alternately 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 WA Dept. of Environment and Conservation is www.naturebase.net or you can apply direct to the Dept. at PO Box 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.naturebase.net 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

John Greig

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