



NORTHERN LAND
COUNCIL

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

INDIGENOUS RANGER COMPLIANCE SUPPORT PROJECT (IRCS) UPDATE

Newsletter No. 1: 20 April 2020

CHANGES TO THE IRCS PROJECT DUE TO CORONAVIRUS:

Malak Malak draft plan completed: **New project activities:**

In late March, compliance area planning for the Northern Land Council ranger groups commenced with the pilot involving Malak Malak Rangers.

A consultation and planning exercise was undertaken at the ranger station.

This provided rangers and some traditional owners with an opportunity to discuss local issues.

As a result the draft Malak Malak Area Compliance Plan will soon be made available for comment and consideration.

Further plans on hold for now:

Plans to engage other ranger groups in this process have been put on hold for now.

In the meantime the IRCS team encourage you to start engaging with your community and relevant stakeholders in relation to local compliance issues.

Due to impacts caused by the coronavirus epidemic, the IRCS Project has changed.

Over the next few months, rather than engage with rangers and stakeholders with compliance planning, the IRCS team will now focus on developing two other project activities:

1. A manual

The NLC Compliance Policy and Procedures Manual will be completed in the coming months.



2. A compliance course

A new compliance training course for all land and sea rangers will be developed in consultation with partner agencies and a registered training organisation (RTO).



Malak Malak Rangers!

The Malak Malak Rangers are busy monitoring NT Fisheries Regulations on the Daly River.

They are also concerned about unlawful access on land trust areas, hunting, visitors leaving rubbish, wasting fish, erosion and other impacts caused by excessive visitation.

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Reporting biosecurity breaches:

From 26 March, remote communities in the Northern Territory were closed to all non-essential travel in response to concerns about the spread of coronavirus.

Rangers perform important roles protecting country, now is the time to protect your community from the virus.

If a resident reports or you suspect that someone is breaching the Biosecurity rules in your area it's important that you report this to local police as soon as possible (call 131 444).

What to do if you witness a breach:

First, write down any details about the incident. Who is reporting this to you, the time, date, place, description of cars, boats or aircraft involved and registration numbers? How many people are there, where did they come from, who were they visiting or what were they doing there? If possible take photographs.

If it's safe to do so, approach the suspect/s and ask them politely when they arrived? Have they got permission to be in the area? Tell them about the Biosecurity determination in your area. If you remain concerned, record and report this information to the police.

Remember to maintain social distancing, be professional and remain safe.

**For police assistance
Call 131 444 in non-emergencies**

Contact the NLC Ranger Compliance Support Project team:

Need help with a compliance related problem?
Want to report illegal activity on Aboriginal Land?

Help desk: 8943 9764

Andrew Wellings: 0499 022 672

Carmen Taylor: 0437 758 974

Email address:

compliancesupport@nlc.org.au

Welcome to our new staff member Carmen Taylor, Project Officer - Ranger Compliance

Carmen recently arrived from Broome to come work with us and help Andrew Wellings with the CFC Indigenous Ranger Compliance Support project!

Carmen brings decades of relevant knowledge and hands on experience with working in remote areas.

Most recently she was the Kimberley Land Council training officer, and has had various jobs as a trainer/assessor, senior ranger and as a serving member of the WA Police force for 18 years.

Once biosecurity restrictions are lifted, Carmen and Andrew will be keen to meet with Traditional Owners and the local ranger groups, to listen and work together on ways to manage local compliance risks.

In the meantime if you want to discuss anything compliance related, report an incident or just say g'day, please contact Carmen or Andrew any time through the Compliance Support Help Desk (contact details to left).



Carmen with a friend at Mulan community, East Kimberley