



## Incident Management and Ranger Support Project Update – Sep 2023

### Eyes and Ears Workshop

The project is currently conducting Eyes, Ears & Evidence (compliance) workshops with each NLC Ranger Group. This workshop is an introduction to the upcoming Certificate II compliance training. The workshop talks about:

- what is compliance (Respect On-Country)
- threats
- how we manage Aboriginal land
- permits and law
- sacred sites & areas of cultural significance
- s19 land use agreements
- safety first – engaging visitors
- communication & reporting – the 4 whys
- observations & descriptions
- writing a report
- evidence
- what happens next



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# Incident Reporting

It is important to follow the 4 x whys when reporting incidents.


1. **When** - time and date
2. **Where** - place/location
3. **Who** - who was there - you, other people, witnesses,
4. **What** - describe what you saw, what happened? What did you do?

**Evidence** - anything you can use to prove something!  
 You can use:

- Photo's and video
- GPS coordinates
- Your notes taken at the time
- Any other evidence that supports what happened

# Project Vision

- To support Traditional Owners to safely manage their lands, through effective Ranger education and engagement of visitors, to do the right thing On-Country, and
- Successfully investigate non-compliant or illegal breaches with partner agencies.



### NLC Ranger Compliance Incident Report

|  |     |                  |     |
|--|-----|------------------|-----|
| Reporting Person (you)   |     | Ph:              |     |
| Ranger Group   |     | Email            |     |
| <b>WHEN – day, time and date</b>   |     |                  |     |
| Date of incident   |     | Day – Mon-Sun    |     |
| Time AM/PM   |     | Between Day/Time |     |
| <b>WHERE – location, a place, name, GPS coordinates, nearest landmark</b>  |     |                  |     |
| Location   |     |                  |     |
| Describe place   |     |                  |     |
| Latitude   |     | Longitude        |     |
| Other information  |     |                  |     |
| <b>WHO – person/s of interest and witnesses – name (if known) &amp;/or description</b>   |     |                  |     |
| POI Name   |     | Address          |     |
| Phone  |     | Email            |     |
| Description – male, female, other; skin colour; height; build – slim, medium, heavy; hair – colour, style, length; clothes – top, pants shoes; tattoos; scars; jewellery; glasses; anything else |     |                  |     |
|  |     |                  |     |
|  |     |                  |     |
| 1. Witness Name  |     | Address          |     |
| Phone  |     | Email            |     |
| 2. Witness Name  |     | Address          |     |
| Phone  |     | Email            |     |
| <b>WHAT HAPPENED – what did you see, describe any vehicles, boats/vessels, aircraft, registration or any identifying markings, accessories, damage</b>   |     |                  |     |
| Vehicle  | Y/N | Vessel/Boat      | Y/N |
| Aircraft/Helicopter  | Y/N | Animals          | Y/N |
| Photograph/Video   | Y/N | Other Evidence   | Y/N |
|  |     |                  |     |
|  |     |                  |     |
| <b>Reported to</b>   |     |                  |     |
| Coordinator  | Y/N | NLC WHS          | Y/N |
| Regional Office  | Y/N | Police           | Y/N |
| Fisheries  | Y/N | Other Agency     | Y/N |
|  |     |                  |     |
| <b>Any evidence - list</b>   |     |                  |     |
| 1.   | 2.  | 3.               | 4.  |
| Comments   |     |                  |     |
|  |     |                  |     |
| Attach any photographs to this report below  |     |                  |     |







## NEW - Permits, Access and Compliance Team (PACT)

We will be advised of the roles and responsibilities of this newly formed team once the Manager has commenced. This team will be coordinating the regional permits, section 19 and illegal activity on Aboriginal land issues.

For further information contact [pact@nlc.org.au](mailto:pact@nlc.org.au)

In the interim, please continue to send all alleged suspicious, non-compliant and illegal activity reports to [compliancesupport@nlc.org.au](mailto:compliancesupport@nlc.org.au)

## NLC Sea Country

The Sea Country Unit is busy conducting consults throughout the Top End.

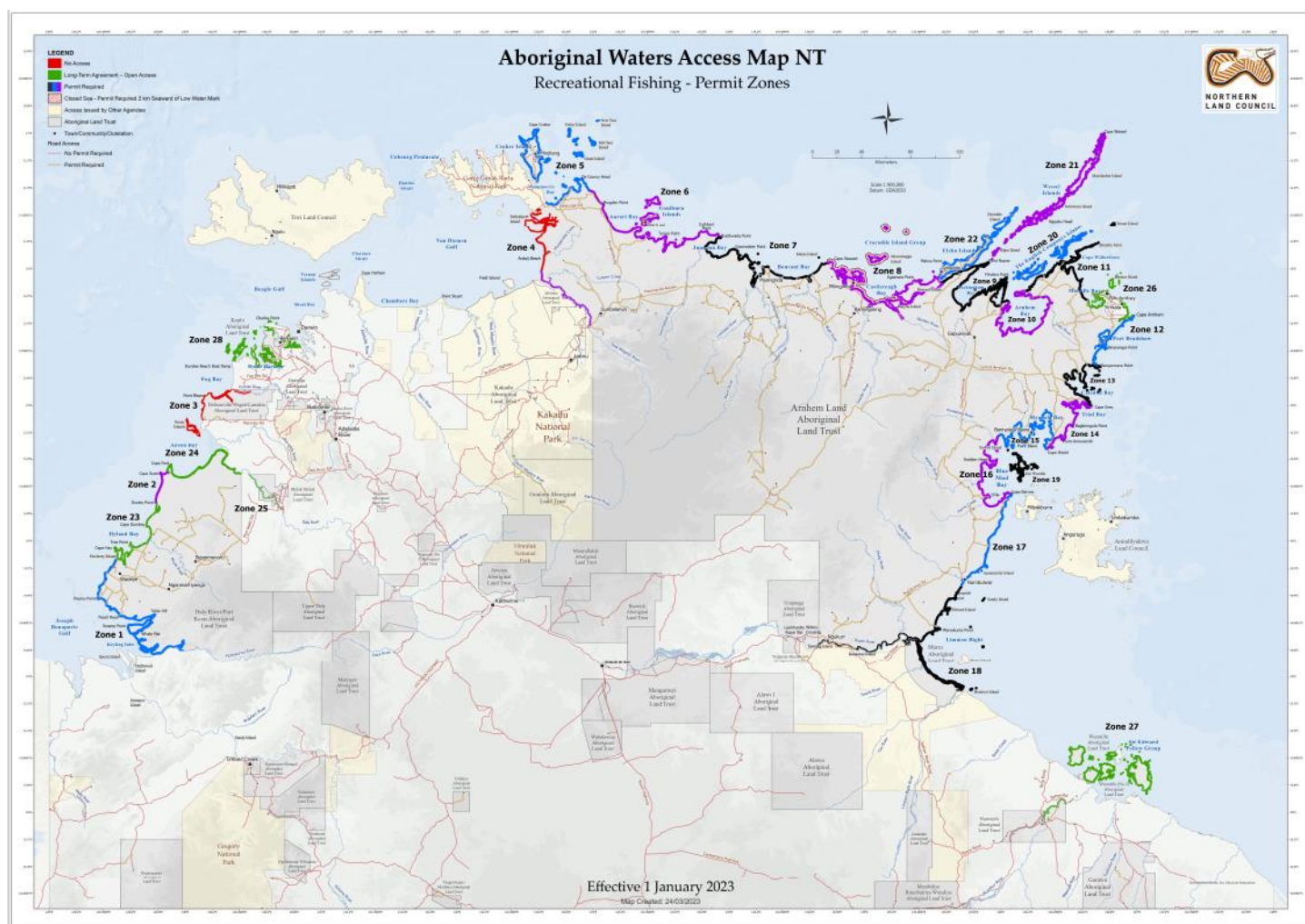
Check the website for any updates or contact [seacountry@nlc.org.au](mailto:seacountry@nlc.org.au).

Zone maps are available on the website.

[Aboriginal Waters Access Maps | Northern Land Council \(nlc.org.au\)](https://nlc.org.au/Aboriginal-Waters-Access-Maps)

[Recreational Fishing | Northern Land Council \(nlc.org.au\)](https://nlc.org.au/Recreational-Fishing) – apply for a permit

[Fishing Tour Operators | Northern Land Council \(nlc.org.au\)](https://nlc.org.au/Fishing-Tour-Operators) – apply for a s19







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## Section 19 Land Use Agreements

S19's are an agreement between the commercial operator, Traditional Owners for the area of operation and the NLC. These agreements are highly confidential and ensure fair commercial operations on Aboriginal land and payment of royalties. They usually require a few meeting consults and can take a few months to over a year.

These include paid commercial tours - helicopter, fishing, guided safari hunting, boat cruises etc.

**A Traditional Owner can not give written permission for commercial access and activity on Aboriginal land, it must be a consult with all known Traditional Owners to agree on s19 terms and conditions.**

## Permits

Can be issued by the NLC and a Traditional Owner and must be in writing. It is preferred permits are issued by a nominated TO permit delegate for the area. If you are not sure who is your nominated permit delegate, please contact the NLC PAC team [pact@nlc.org.au](mailto:pact@nlc.org.au)

## S 5 Aboriginal Land Act 1978 issue of permits

At present NLC permits are free with the exception of 3 specific areas.

Dhimurru run their own permit system delegated by the NLC at a fee in Nhulunbuy (Gove)

## Permits - Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

## Revoking Permits

Traditional Owners and the NLC can revoke a permit if conditions are being breached. Contact you local NLC legal officer and PACT if you have TO requests, concerns or enquiries.

## Project Aims

To ensure Aboriginal Rangers Groups are appropriately,

- Trained
- Resourced, and
- Supported

To undertake compliance activities on their traditional land and seas, safely and effectively



## Certificate II in Government

Charles Darwin University is currently finalizing the training material for this qualification. It is expected to roll out either late 2023 but definitely for 2024.

This training follows the same principles as the Cert II in Fisheries but is land based particularly for NT Parks Rangers and Conservation Officers.

People Services Training will be in contact regarding enrolments, dates and locations. They can be contacted on [training@nlc.org.au](mailto:training@nlc.org.au)

## Drones

The Caring for Country branch is currently looking into the use of drones by Ranger Groups. As there are strict Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) laws round the use of drones, the NLC requires approved Policy and Procedures before any approvals, funding and training become available. At present, the Policy and Procedures (manual) is in draft.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) Northern Territory Government of Australia recently conducted several drone industry strategy consults that included the NLC. We are waiting on any outcomes from these industry consults.



## Project Benefits

Protection and promotion of Aboriginal rights, interests and culture, and mutual respect between landowners and visitors.

Visitors understand their obligations and responsibilities when accessing Aboriginal land.

Skilled NLC Rangers are equipped and supported to conduct compliance activities safely on country.





## Littering & Illegal Dumping on Aboriginal land

Illegal dumping is an environmental crime that can cause serious environmental pollution, pose a risk to human health, and impact local amenities and community pride.

Combating illegal dumping is a key priority for the Northern Land Council Aboriginal Rangers, NT Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) and local communities. It is hoped that this will reduce the incidence of illegal dumping and reduce the social, environmental, health and financial impact of illegal dumping. It will help the community to report illegal dumping activities.

**What is litter?**  
Means litter, garbage, rubbish, refuse or waste matter, and includes the body of a dead animal.

**What is illegal dumping?**  
Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of any waste that is larger than litter to land or waters. Illegal dumping is where waste materials are dumped, tipped or otherwise deposited on private or public land. This also includes aboriginal land.  
Illegal dumping also involves the dumping of liquid waste to land and to waterways.  
The NTEPA regularly receives reports of illegal dumping from the community and actively investigates these to identify the offenders so that they can bear the cost of any clean up as well being prosecuted in court.

**What are the impacts of illegal dumping?**  
• Contamination of Aboriginal land, waters and culture  
• Attract vermin that pose health risks  
• Impact the health of the people living in and visiting the area

**Offences and fines**  
Aboriginal Land Act 1978 & Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 up to \$15,650 (2023)  
NT EPA on the spot fines and court penalties up to \$11,500 for individuals and over \$57,000 for companies.

**PLEASE DON'T RUBBISH OUR COUNTRY**



## Report Littering & Illegal Dumping

The community is strongly encouraged to report incidents of illegal dumping to

NLC Head Office  
45 Mitchell Street Darwin, NT 0801  
Email: [reception@nlc.org.au](mailto:reception@nlc.org.au)  
Tel: 3800 645 239  
Tel: (08) 8920 5100

[www.nlc.org.au](http://www.nlc.org.au)

<https://www.nlc.org.au/contact-us/complaints>

NT EPA's Pollution Hotline on 1800 064  
email to [pollution@nt.gov.au](mailto:pollution@nt.gov.au)

When making a report, providing additional information such as photographs and registration details of vehicles involved in dumping will greatly assist NLC and NTEPA investigations.



Northern Land Council

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

In order to gain voluntary compliance, we need to ensure visitors to Aboriginal lands are exposed to the right information, rules and laws.

Do not hesitate to contact the team if you have any questions or queries:  
[compliancesupport@nlc.org.au](mailto:compliancesupport@nlc.org.au) or call 0437758974

## Illegal Dumping and Littering

The Project is receiving increased reports of illegal dumping and littering on Aboriginal land. This includes,

- general domestic rubbish
- black water from caravans (toilet waste water)
- oil drums
- tyres

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority [NTEPA](http://nt.gov.au) are the regulatory authority that manages (significant) environmental land and water waste and pollution. They provide a 21 page illegal dumping [Fact Sheet](#)

NTEPA are currently targeting significant tyre dumping [waste-tyres-brochure.pdf \(nt.gov.au\)](http://nt.gov.au)  
[Marine pollution \(amsa.gov.au\)](http://amsa.gov.au)

Education is key to illegal dumping Hot Spots. The Project has drafted the following signs, flyers and handouts to support Rangers,

- Please Don't Rubbish Our Country - signs and flyers
- Littering & Illegal Dumping on Aboriginal land information handout

**PLEASE DON'T RUBBISH OUR COUNTRY**

