



Compliance News

September 2021

September rollout for Cert II in Compliance

The Certificate II Government (Ranger Compliance Support) is planned for a staged rollout later this month. After the initial course at the Batchelor Institute in March, it was decided that a combination of on-line and on-country training best meets the needs of NLC rangers.

The upcoming course will have self-paced on-line content, on-line tutorial classes and it will finish with a face-to-face practical component on-country with NLC's Compliance Training Coordinator Brian Boyle.

If you are interested in undertaking this training, talk to your Ranger Coordinator about nominating for the course.



Xavier Espiau, Joanne Pomery and Eva Nunggumajbarr

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NLC Ranger Training Coordinator

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Introducing your new Training Coordinator for Ranger Compliance

Brian Boyle started out as a ranger in New Zealand in the 1980's. He has nearly 40 years' experience working in the areas of natural resource and compliance and emergency management, including 17 years in parks and wildlife departments in New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria and the NT, as well as 10 years in game and hunting management in NSW and three years in biosecurity management and operations in NSW and the NT.

Prior to joining the NLC's Caring for Country Compliance Group, Brian was a Fishery Manager at NT Fisheries for 7 years. While there he also spent some time working in the Fisheries Marine Ranger Unit where he assisted with the appointment of the first Indigenous Fishery Inspectors in the NT.



Brian understands what it is like to live and work in remote areas. Some of the places he has worked at include, Ross Island in Antarctica, some of the remotest areas of New Zealand and Cobourg NP in the NT.

Brian said: 'I understand what it is like being on the front-line dealing with visitors who are doing the right thing....and some who aren't. I also understand it can be a challenge when you first have to deal with someone who is breaking the law. But with practice and experience it gets easier.'

"If you treat with people professionally and with respect, they sometimes surprise you by thanking you - even though you might have been confiscating something like a firearm and hunting equipment that is quite expensive. If you can have that outcome, you know the job has been done well."

- Brian Boyle, NLC Ranger Training Coordinator



Development of compliance database nears completion

After nearly 18 months the development work on a NLC Compliance Database is nearing completion. The database will be a compliance incident tracking system that will record incidents, keep a record of progress of investigations and any compliance and enforcement actions.

Information and intelligence has become a central tool in modern compliance control, which is used by law enforcement and land management agencies (such as the NLC) to understand compliance issues.

The development of intelligence relies on the sharing of information between NLC and other NT agencies—including NT Police, AAPA and NT Fisheries other government agencies and private sector entities.

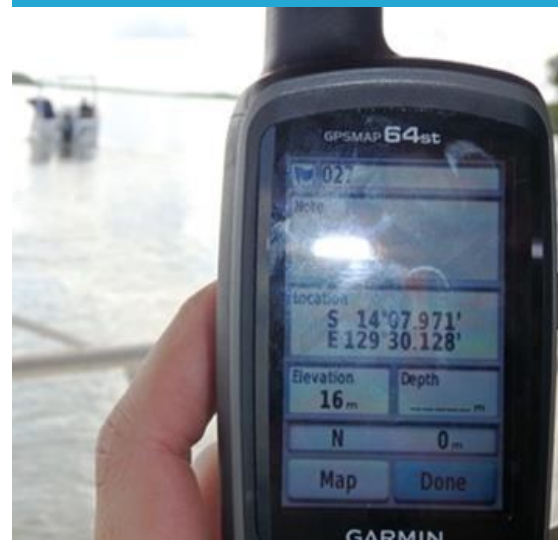
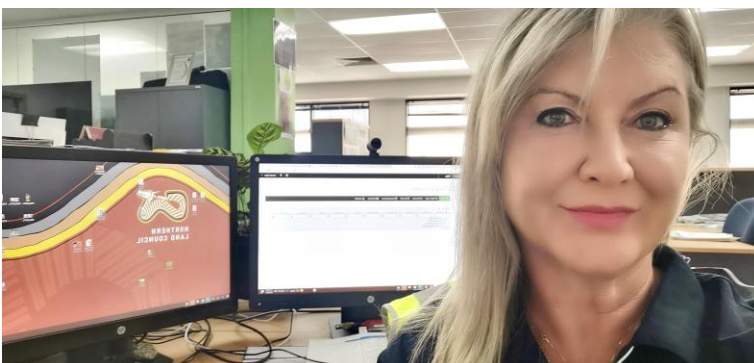
It is important that rangers accurately record and report incidents when on patrol and encourage TO's and community members on-country to report illegal and unwanted activity on their land so that the Compliance Group can collect intelligence on illegal activity on Aboriginal Land Trusts in the NLC region.

The information and intelligence captured in the database will provide a record that will allow for analysis of trends in activities by the areas that they occurred and the time of year these activities are likely to happen.

This will aid in risk assessment and area/regional compliance planning. Ultimately this will allow ranger operations to plan and be pro-active in targeted sector education, engagement and compliance work rather just being reactive after illegal activities have occurred.

"The development of intelligence relies on the sharing of information between NLC and other NT agencies and private sector entities – the database developed by the Compliance Support Group will aid this."

- Carmen Taylor,
Senior Project
Coordinator – Ranger
Compliance





Compliance tip for the month!

Your notebooks are a key tool for gathering intelligence and reporting on compliance in your area.

Official notebooks are issued to all rangers. These notebooks are useful as an evidence gathering tool. Notes can be accepted as good evidence by courts if used properly.

Notebooks are not only for compliance work but can be used to record other work notes. You could use them for taking notes at meetings, recording instructions or messages for work purposes.

Try to get used to taking notes, make it a habit and always have it with you when at work. Remember to write your personal details inside cover and the contact details for Compliance Helpdesk.

Your ranger notebook - never leave base without it!

Try to get some practice on every patrol by recording information and intelligence.

Compliance Helpdesk:
compliancesupport@nlc.org.au or call (08) 89439764

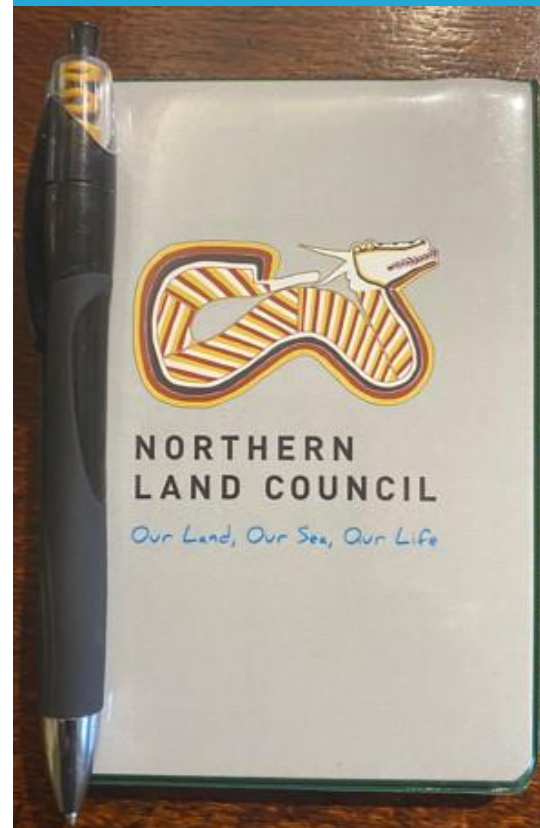


Rangers Teresa BurrBurr and Wesley Shields use their notebooks to plan the day ahead.

Why make notes?

Good notes bolsters the credibility of the officer giving evidence. It also promotes justice by providing proof of facts. Sloppy note-taking can harm the credibility of the officer giving evidence and seriously undermine the successful prosecution of the case. They become a timely and accurate record of an event.

Notes become a method to refresh memory and allow a witness to provide the Court with the most accurate evidence by supporting your memory.





The NLC briefs NT Police recruits on key compliance issues facing the NLC, TOs and communities

In August the NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Joy Cardona, Women’s Sub-Committee Chair, and staff from the Compliance Support Group spent several hours addressing 61 police recruits on key issues facing communities, Traditional Owners and the NLC in regard to Aboriginal Lands across in the Top End.

Acting Senior Sergeant Matt Allen said the recruits (51 Recruit Constables in Squad 142 and 10 Aboriginal Community Police Officers from ACPO Squad 27) appreciated the NLC’s attendance and contribution to the final days of their 28-week training course.

“Many of these recruits will be working on Aboriginal Land so it is vital that they get a good understanding of the many facets of life and law out there. Many of the recruits are from interstate so meeting people from the NLC at this early stage of their careers is highly beneficial,” said Senior Sergeant Allen.

“These recruits will be out there working in communities in the NLC area and they need an appreciation of all the challenges that exist and today’s session with NLC elected members and staff is a great start. Building partnerships and relationships and appreciating the importance of connecting with the community and with the NLC will be something that I hope all of these recruits will carry with them right through their careers. We look forward to the NLC delivering similar sessions for future recruit squads.”



New recruits meet the NLC

"Many of the recruits are from interstate so meeting people from the NLC at this early stage of their careers is highly beneficial in understanding Aboriginal land is private land, the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, and building strong relationships with Rangers and Traditional Owners."

- Senior Sergeant Allen



Joy Cardona and Shane Franey.

Compliance signage and brochures on the way!

Introducing Maddy Stenmark - new Compliance Group staff member

"Hi there, I'm Maddy. I'm the new team member who will be helping to coordinate signage and information brochures as part of the Indigenous Ranger Compliance Support (IRCS) project.

I'll be working closely with Carmen Taylor, as well as graphic designer Charlotte Ruth and the rangers over the next few months to ensure that by the end of the year, ranger groups have new and updated signs and brochures to educate visitors about important issues on their land and waters.



Currently, we are focusing on signs for Aboriginal Land Trust borders, Areas of Cultural Significance, and Cultural Burning. Each ranger group will receive new or updated versions of these signs, and five of them have already reached the stage where they are consulting with TOs to decide on sign content.

This is an Area of Cultural Significance to the (name) Aboriginal people.

Message in language

We're encouraging the rangers to personalise the signs as much as possible. This means giving messages in Language as well as English; providing local artwork and/or photos of Country and writing a Welcome to Country.

Some common issues the rangers want to talk about on their signs and in their brochures are:

- Illegal fishing and hunting
- Unlawful entry onto Aboriginal Land Trust including camping
- Sacred sites including burial, ceremony, dreaming, song line, rock art, waterholes and billabongs
- Cultural burning on their land.

We're also developing ranger information brochures to be distributed to visitors!

By the end of the year, we are aiming to have signage and brochure designs finalised and approved for each of our ranger groups. This requires consistent communication between Rangers, Traditional Owners and any other stakeholders to ensure they're all happy with what will be installed on their land.

We hope to visit each ranger group by the end of 2021 to support the signs and brochures design process.

Do not hesitate to contact the team if you have any questions or queries:
compliancesupport@nlc.org.au or call (08) 89439764