

REMOTE TRAVEL – 5 June 2020 – Q & A

Please note this advice is subject to change at short notice. Please ensure you have the latest information.

Approved Remote Essential Worker (AREW)

Q. Will I continue to need my AREW card to be able to travel remotely after 5 June 2020?

A. Yes, for travel into the Anindilyakwa, Central and Northern Land Council regions, these Land Councils will continue to acknowledge your AREW card up until 18 September 2020, after which NTG and Land Councils will review this process.

Travel to the Tiwi Islands has also changed. The Executive Director of Township Leasing has lifted the travel restrictions of entry into Wurrumiyanga, Wurrankuwu, Milikapiti, and Pirlangimpi. Any persons wanting to access Aboriginal Land in the Tiwi Islands outside of the listed townships must apply for a permit from the Tiwi Land Council. Persons that meet the requirements of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, will not require a permit. This includes government employees, contractors or Telstra undertaking travel for work purposes only.

Q. What if I have applied and haven't received my AREW card?

A. Everyone will receive an electronic interim AREW until the card is sent in the mail. Due to the travel restrictions, there have been delays in mailing systems.

Q. Can I still apply for an AREW card after 4 June 2020?

A. No, from 5 June 2020 the Northern Territory Government will not accept any new AREW applications. However, if you applied prior to 5 June, your AREW application will still be assessed for processing.

Q. If I have an AREW card, does that mean I won't require a land council permit to travel to Aboriginal communities or on Aboriginal land after 5 June?

A. Yes, if you have a valid AREW card, the NLC, CLC and ALC have authorised this as a valid permit for work purposes up until 18 September 2020, so you won't require any other permits up until then.

Your AREW card is for work purposes only. If you don't have an AREW card, you will be required to obtain authorisation from the Land Council(s).

You don't require a permit to enter Wurrumiyanga, Wurrankuwu, Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi townships in the **Tiwi Land Council** region.

Q. What if I already have a land council permit for remote travel, will this still be valid after 5 June?

A. Your land council permit has an expiry date and is valid up until that date (unless otherwise revoked), for example 22 June.

If you don't have a valid AREW card, before your permit has expired, you will need to re-apply for an extension or new permit with the relevant land council.

Q. What will the process be for me to be able to travel into Aboriginal communities?

A. If you have an AREW card, the ALC, CLC and NCL acknowledge this is valid up until 18 September 2020. If you don't have a valid AREW card or you are not an essential worker, you need to check if you will be travelling on Aboriginal land then you will need to apply directly to the relevant Land Council(s) for the relevant permit.

The Tiwi Land Council will require you to apply for a permit if you wish to travel to areas of Aboriginal land outside of the townships. For more information, see attached link <https://tiwilandcouncil.com/> (TLC / OTL Joint Media Release).

Q. What if I have an AREW card but I have since changed jobs?

A. Once you change employment, your AREW card is no longer valid because your card is issued with your employment details.

Q. If I have an AREW card, does this allow me to enter or remain on Aboriginal land for fishing or other recreational purposes?

A. No. The AREW card allows access for work purposes only.

Q. What about fishing in remote areas?

A. This is the same as it was prior to COVID-19 restrictions, if you are travelling over or through Aboriginal land to reach your destination, you will need a permit. If in doubt, check the website for the Anindilyakwa, Northern and Tiwi Land Councils.

If you have booked with a Fishing Tour Operator (fishing lodge), where you might fly into a region, you need to confirm your booking with the provider.

If you are travelling to a site, for example Shady Camp or Corroboree, without needing to go through a remote community (or requiring a Permit), you should be able to continue with your plans. This also includes fishing in Darwin Harbour, Bynoe Harbour, Cox Peninsular, Dundee, Channel Point, Shoal Bay, Leeders Creek, Adelaide River (mouth) and Daly River (as long as you're not crossing through or over Aboriginal land). If in doubt, check with the relevant Land Council.

Q. What roads can I access without requiring an Aboriginal land council permit?

A. Presently, the Northern Territory's main roads are open, including the Stuart Highway, Arnhem Highway, Barkly Highway and Victoria Highway. Of course, you should always check the road condition before travelling at roadreport.nt.gov.au.

You should also check the relevant Land Council's website for any information on roads that may pass through Aboriginal land.

Q. Do I still have to follow the CHO direction when travelling? Do I still need a COVID-19 plan?

A. There may be some aspects of the CHO direction you may still be required to comply with. There is no legal requirement for a COVID-19 plan. However, there may still be some requirements imposed by the relevant land councils if entering Aboriginal land. You will need to check what (if any) requirements are in place when you apply for any permits or authorisations.

Q. Are the requirements likely to change?

A. Yes, the clinical situation is constantly changing and the National/Territory actions are likely to continue to change in response as is required.

Contacts

For any additional information required to answer queries, contact the relevant Land Council:

- NLC: 1800 645 299 or covid-19@nlc.org.au
- CLC: permits@clc.org.au
- TLC: office@tiwilandcouncil.com
- ALC: alcpermits@alcnt.com.au

Refer journalist and or media enquires in writing to DCM.SecureNT@nt.gov.au