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# Yiwarra Kuju Canning Stock Route

**KUJU  
WANGKA**

*One Indigenous Voice for  
the Canning Stock Route*



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# Foreward



“The Canning Stock Route is one of the toughest and most remote tracks in the world”

This booklet has been prepared by Kuju Wangka. The purpose of this booklet is to provide useful information to people intending to travel Yiwarra Kuju/the Canning Stock Route (CSR). It covers practical travel issues, background on native title rights as they relate to the CSR permit, cultural and environmental heritage information and advice on how you can help minimize your impact on CSR Country during your visit. Kuju Wangka is a representative management body, whose members are the five native title corporations whose land the CSR traverses. From north to south these are:

- Well 51 & 50 – Tjurabalan Native Title Land Aboriginal Corporation (TNTLAC).  
Determination name – Tjuarabalan.
- Well 49 to 40 – Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation (YAC).  
Determination name – Ngurrara.
- Well 39 to 16 – Jamukurnu Yapalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation (JYAC).  
Determination name – Martu.
- Well 15 to 5 – Mungarlu Ngurrarankatja Rirraunkaja Aboriginal Corporation (MNR).  
Determination name – Birriliburu.
- Well 4 to 1 – Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation (TMPAC).  
Determination name – Wiluna.

Representatives to Kuju Wangka are appointed by each of the respective native title corporations, and are traditional owners for Country through which the CSR passes.

Traditional owners from the five native title areas include descendants of people who met with Alfred Canning’s survey and construction teams and people who were living traditionally during the droving days of the CSR.

By purchasing a CSR Permit you are supporting traditional owners to look after Country under correct cultural management protocols. Which includes ensuring continuity of intergenerational cultural knowledge transfer to young generations.

By observing permit requirements you will help to preserve the high cultural, environmental, and heritage values of the CSR.

Kuju Wangka would like to acknowledge and thank Kuju Wangka PBC members and associated ranger programs, the Leave No Trace program, Trackcare WA, Department of Parks and Wildlife Services WA (now Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), Four Wheel Drive Australia, Steve Wright, Peter Veth, Jo McDonald, Martin Dieckmann, Parnngurr, Kunawarritji, Punmu and Billiluna communities, Martumili Artists, Mangkaja Artists, Tjukurba Art Gallery, Yarliyil Art Centre and Warlayirti Artists for their contributions to this booklet.

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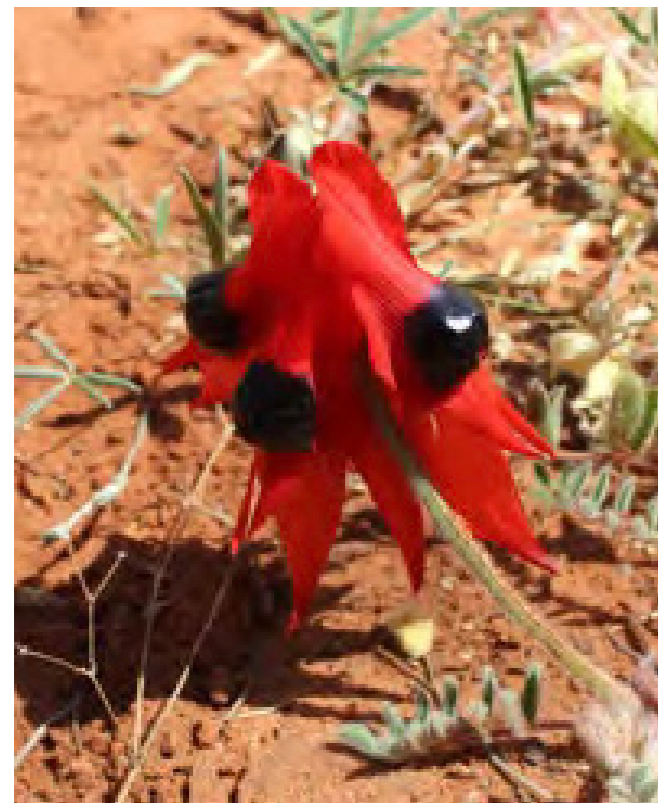
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# Preparing For Your Journey

## Preparation is Important

Preparation is important to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable journey on Yiwarra Kuju/the Canning Stock Route (CSR). This section is provided as a guide to help in your preparations. Kuju Wangka strongly advises visitors to the CSR to thoroughly research remote 4WD travel and to consider undertaking accredited 4WD training as part of your preparation.



## When to Travel?

The recommended time to travel the CSR is between May and September.

On average this time of year provides relatively mild temperatures during the day and evenings. Night minimums may drop to zero degrees so make sure you pack appropriately.

Travelling outside this time frame is not recommended due to risk associated with extreme heat and/or wet conditions. In addition, travelling outside the recommended time will mean you are more isolated in unforgiving terrain.

At any time of year, if a large amount of rain has fallen or been forecast, it is advisable to postpone your journey. Driving through rain effected areas can cause significant damage to your vehicle, the track and Country.

It's strongly advised that you check with relevant state and local authorities on weather forecast, regional road closures and general road conditions before you set out on your journey.

## Where will you begin and end your journey?

The CSR can be accessed and exited through the following options.

- Wiluna (Well 1)
- Granite Peak Pastoral Station (access at well 5)\*
- Glen-Ayle Pastoral Station (access at well 9)\*
- Talawana Track (access at Well 23)
- Kidson Track / Wapet Road (access at Well 33)
- Tanami Road (access at Billiluna above Well 51)

\*A CSR permit does not cover access to the CSR through pastoral stations. Please phone stations ahead of your travel time to discuss access with station managers. Contact information is provided on page 47.

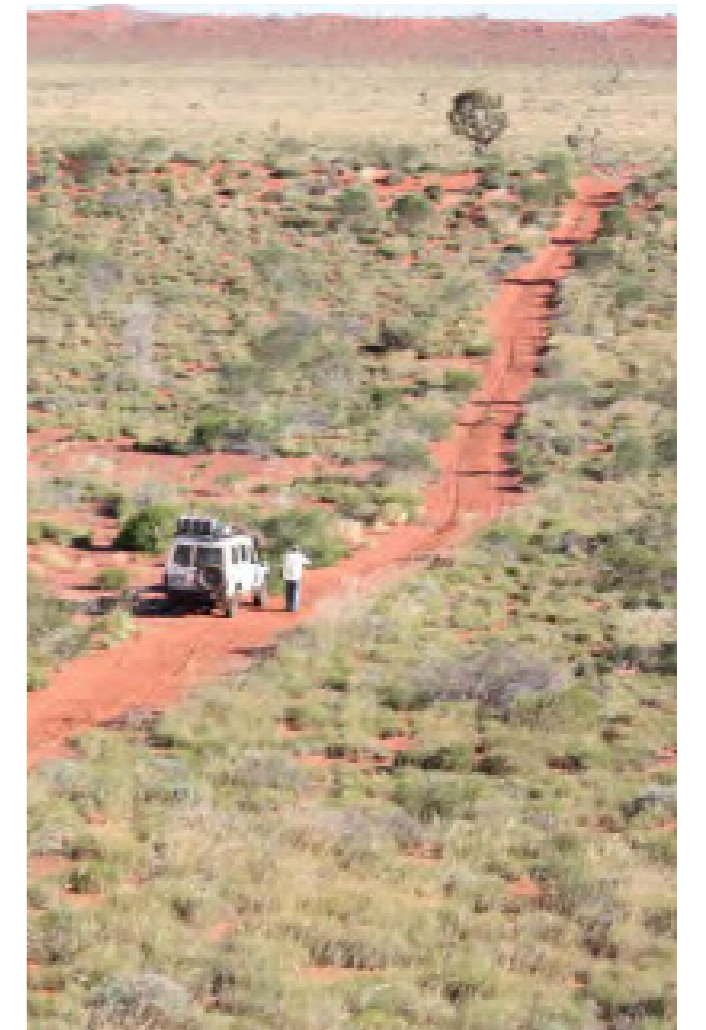


## Distances

When planning your trip it is useful to calculate distances for each day to determine how long your journey will take and supplies needed. The entire CSR is 1850 kilometers however if you visit each well or double back on occasion you will exceed this distance.

The Exploroz website is a useful resource which provides distances between wells and average time taken.

Ensure when planning your schedule and supplies to allow extra days in case you become stuck, whether through vehicle breakdown, weather or illness etc.



## Town and Community Information and Contact Numbers

The closest towns to the CSR are Wiluna and Halls Creek. Along or nearby the CSR itself a number of communities can be accessed to stock up on fuel, food supplies and water and in some cases indulge in nice accommodation and hot showers. The following information outlines what is available at each community. **Information provided was accurate at March 2024. It is strongly advised to contact each town and community before you start your journey as information below may have changed.**

### Wiluna

#### Fuel

Diesel  
Unleaded: Yes  
LPG: No  
Hours: 24 hours (card operated)

#### Shops

Mon – Fri: 8am – 5pm  
Sat: 8am – 2pm  
Sun: 8am – 2pm

#### Services

Internet: Yes  
Water: Contact Shire Office  
Rubbish Disposal: Yes  
Workshop: Yes  
Clinic: Yes

#### Other

Permit required: No  
Liquor restrictions: Applies to residents only  
Population: Approx 300

#### Accommodation

Dongas, Caravan Park: contact shire for information

#### Shire Office Contact Details

Address: 70 Wotton Street, Wiluna 6646  
Email: reception@wiluna.wa.gov.au  
Phone: 08 9981  
Website: www.wiluna.wa.gov  
Office hours (M – F): 8.30am – 4.30pm

### Parngur

#### Community Office

Address: PMB 598 via Newman WA, 6753  
Hours: Mon to Fri, 8am – 12pm, 1pm to 4pm.  
Closed on weekends  
Email: coordinator@parngurr.au  
Phone: 9176 9009  
Mobile: 0481 235 136

#### Fuel

Diesel: Yes  
Unleaded: Yes (opal only)  
LPG: No  
Fuel available through the shop (see shop opening times below) for electronic payments.  
Fuel available outside shop opening hours through Community Coordinator, cash payments only.

#### Shop

Mon – Fri: 8am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm  
Sat: 8am – 12pm  
Sun: closed

#### Other Services

Internet: Yes (starlink)  
Water: Yes  
Rubbish disposal: Yes  
Mechanical workshop: No  
Clinic: Yes (emergency treatments)

#### Accommodation

Dongas: Single ensuite, \$180pp/pn, call office to arrange.

#### Other Information

Population: Approx. 100  
Permit required: No  
Alcohol restrictions: No alcohol allowed

### Punmu

#### Community Office

Address: LMB 20 via Newman WA, 6753  
Hours: Mon to Fri, 7am – 12pm, 1pm to 3pm.  
Closed on weekends  
Email: punmucorp@punmu.com.au  
Phone: 9176 9110  
Mobile: 0409107224

#### Fuel

Diesel: Yes  
Unleaded: Yes (opal only)  
LPG: No  
Fuel available through the shop (see shop opening times below), for electronic payments.  
Fuel available outside shop opening hours through Community Coordinator, cash payments only.

#### Shop

Mon to Fri: 8am – 12pm, 1pm – 3pm  
Sat: 8am – 11.30am  
Sun: Closed

#### Other Services

Internet: Yes (Starlink/free Wi-Fi)  
Water: Yes  
Rubbish disposal: Yes  
Mechanical workshop: Hoist and some equipment available.  
Clinic: Yes, (emergency treatments)

#### Accommodation

Dongas: Single ensuite, \$180 pp/pn, call office to arrange.  
Camping: Free of charge – toilets/showers/kitchen available.

#### Other Information

Population: Approx. 100  
Permit required: No  
Alcohol restrictions: No alcohol allowed

### Wiluna

#### Community Office

Address: LMB 18 via Newman WA, 6753  
Hours: Mon to Fri, 8am – 12pm, 1pm to 5pm.  
Call on weekend.  
Email: kac.office@outbackstores.com.au  
Mobile: 0434 078 909

#### Fuel

Diesel: Yes  
Unleaded: Yes (opal only)  
LPG: No  
Fuel available 24 hours per day via automated system. No need to pre order. By arrangement other fuel types may be ordered (98 RON) but this needs sufficient notice and minimum quantities as we do not keep this fuel on hand.

#### Shop

Mon to Fri: 8am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm  
Sat: 9am – 12pm  
Sun: Closed  
Phone: 08 9176 9620

#### Other Services

Internet: Yes (Starlink currently being installed)  
Water: Yes  
Rubbish disposal: Yes  
Mechanical workshop: No  
Clinic: Yes, RAN on duty from 8:30 – 12:00 and 2:00 – 5:00.

#### Accommodation

Motel units, shared facilities, cooking facilities  
Some self contained units available (single person only). Call store to book or use the above email address (preferred).

#### Other Information

Population: Approx. 140  
Permit required: No  
Alcohol restrictions: No alcohol allowed.

### Billiluna

**Community Office**  
No community office

**Fuel**  
Diesel: Yes  
Unleaded: Yes (opal only)  
LPG: No  
Fuel available 24/7 – All Credit/Debit Cards accepted.

**Shop**  
Fully Stocked Shop.  
Mon to Fri: 9am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm  
Saturday: 9am – 12pm  
Sunday & Public Holidays: Closed

**Other Services**  
Internet: Yes (Telstra 4G & Optus)  
Water: Yes  
Rubbish disposal: Yes, (please no alcohol related waste)  
Mechanical workshop: No  
Clinic: Yes, (emergency treatments)

**Accommodation**  
No Accomodation

**Other Information**  
Population: Approx. 150  
Permit required: No  
Alcohol restrictions: No alcohol allowed.

### Halls Creek

**Fuel**  
Diesel: Yes  
Unleaded: Yes  
LPG: Yes  
Hours: 5am – 10pm (Mon – Sun)

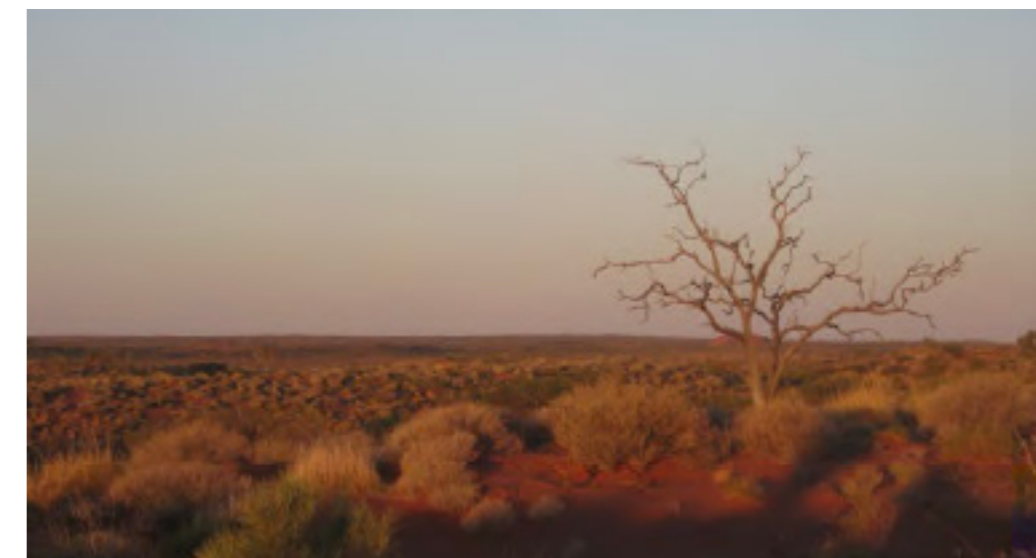
**Store**  
Mon – Fri: 7am – 6m  
Sat: 8am – 4pm  
Sun: 9am – 12pm

**Services**  
Internet: Yes  
Water: Yes  
Rubbish disposal: Yes  
Vehicle workshop: Yes  
Clinic: Hospital

**Other**  
Permit required: No  
Liquor restrictions: Light beer only. Exception for hotel guests. Hotel serves full range.  
Population: Approx 2000

**Accommodation**  
Caravan parks  
Hotels  
Motels

**Shire Contact Details**  
Addresss: 2 Hall Street, Halls Creek 6770  
Email: hcshire@hcshire.wa.gov.au  
Phone: 08 9168 6007  
Fax: 08 9168 6235  
Website: www.halls creek.wa.gov.au  
Office hours (M – F): 8am – 4pm



# Vehicle Preparation

Adequate preparation of your vehicle for the CSR is essential to ensure a safe journey. You are a long way from mechanical assistance and if your preparations are not thorough it may result in a long wait and expensive rescue.

Listed below are common causes of mechanical breakdown associated with remote 4WD driving, although this is not an exhaustive list:

- Broken drive belts
- Leaking radiators and radiator hoses
- Blown rear wheel seals
- Front wheel bearings
- Shock absorbers and mountings
- Broken springs and loose spring hangers
- Broken coil spring mounting cradles
- Power steering leaks
- Leaking / binding of the braking system
- Cracks in mudguards and failure to secure tabs of front plastic grills
- Broken rear axle
- Broken stabilizer rods
- Cracked / bent wheel rims
- Broken roof rack mountings

Preparing your vehicle should include a pre-trip service. The service should include:

- A wheel alignment and complete check of tyre condition and tread
- Check the cooling system
- Pressure test, flush and check the radiator
- Check and tighten all hoses and clamps and replace parts where necessary
- Conduct an engine oil and filter change, air cleaner, and fuel filter change
- Conduct a battery condition inspection and if necessary replace
- Check the air conditioner and re-gas if necessary. Inspect for any leaks
- Check and test the electrical system
- Adjust and replace brakes, pedals and handbrake if necessary

The CSR is heavily corrugated in some sections. This can be particularly hard on steering and suspension components, springs, spring hangers, coils, shock absorbers etc. Also on engine mounts, drive belts/chains, exhaust system, universal joints, linkages, axles, seals, mounting brackets, driving lights and CB aerial. If your vehicle has any identified component weaknesses be sure to take appropriate spares.

A suggested checklist of items to include on your journey is provided on the next page, although this is not an exhaustive list.



“Adequate preparation of your vehicle for the Canning Stock Route is essential to ensure a safe journey.”

## Suggested Equipment List

### Car

- ◇ 3m flag pole
- ◇ 2 spare tyres
- ◇ Air pump/spare compressor and tyre gauge
- ◇ 12 volt battery cell caps
- ◇ Spare fan belt, radiator hoses, drive belts, CB aerial
- ◇ Spare filters (fuel, oil, air) and filter removal tools
- ◇ Spare fuses, light globes and spark plugs fuel tank and radiator putty
- ◇ Coolant
- ◇ Engine oil, transmission oil
- ◇ Power steering fluid, brake fluid
- ◇ Receptacle to place extended oils
- ◇ Car manual
- ◇ Fire extinguisher
- ◇ Recovery equipment, maps, compass, GPS
- ◇ Jack and jack plate
- ◇ Wheel brace
- ◇ Tyre levers
- ◇ Tow rope
- ◇ Leather gloves
- ◇ D shackles
- ◇ Winch and winch sling
- ◇ Tree protector and blanket
- ◇ Shovel
- ◇ Snatch block and straps
- ◇ Jumper leads (booster cables)
- ◇ 2 tyre tubes and tube mending kit

Kuju Wangka highly recommends undertaking a 4WD course as part of your CSR preparations.

### Fuel

Allow 30–50% above normal fuel use due to sandy areas, laden vehicles and extended periods of driving in low range.

### Water

- ◇ 5 litres per person per day.

### Tools

- ◇ Spanners, multigrip pliers, screwdrivers
- ◇ pocket knife
- ◇ Hammer, chisel
- ◇ Axe, hacksaw, saw
- ◇ Funnel
- ◇ Valve tool
- ◇ Digital voltmeter
- ◇ Small grease gun
- ◇ Jumper leads
- ◇ Hose clips
- ◇ WD40
- ◇ Wire and plastic ties
- ◇ Chamois / cleaning rags
- ◇ Welding rods
- ◇ Duct tape and electrical tape
- ◇ 12 volt soldering iron & solder
- ◇ Temporary stick on windscreen patches

### Medical/Sun Equipment

- ◇ First-aid kit
- ◇ Insect repellent
- ◇ Hand soap
- ◇ Hat, sunscren and sunglasses
- ◇ Long-sleeved shirts
- ◇ Current first aid training

### Food

Always take extra food in case unforeseen circumstances arise and your journey takes longer than expected.

### Communication Equipment

- ◇ Satellite phone
- ◇ UHF radio
- ◇ Spot tracker/Garmin
- ◇ EPIRB/PLB
- ◇ Starlink

Ensure someone in the party has a thorough understanding of how to use these devices. Also ensure someone else knows your travel plans. Give them a detailed itinerary and contact information and instructions on what to do if you miss scheduled calls.

### Camping Equipment

- ◇ Ground sheet, swag / beds / mattress
- ◇ Tent and tent annexes
- ◇ Lump hammer for tent pegs
- ◇ Pillows, blankets / sleeping bags
- ◇ Tent repair kit
- ◇ Cooking / heating appliances i.e stove
- ◇ Fuel / gas for cooking / heating appliances spare jets / mantles to fit appliances
- ◇ Filler hose, funnel and siphon hose
- ◇ Stove stand
- ◇ Long tongs and eating utensils
- ◇ Fridge
- ◇ Solar panels
- ◇ Table and chairs
- ◇ Cooking pots and pans
- ◇ Storage containers, foil, glad wrap
- ◇ Matches / lighters
- ◇ Garbage bags

### Miscellaneous

- ◇ Light / torch
- ◇ Backpack
- ◇ Portable toilet
- ◇ Clothes line and pegs
- ◇ Bucket
- ◇ Environmentally friendly washing powder
- ◇ spare batteries
- ◇ Mosquito net and coils
- ◇ Rake

## Loading Your Vehicle

Loading your vehicle correctly can reduce the likelihood of an accident and reduce wear and tear on your vehicle.

Overloading your vehicle can nullify your insurance claim in the case of an accident, where overloading contributed to the event.

When packing:

- Place heavy items closest to the floor and secure them
- Only place light items on the roof racks avoid point loading (e.g. placing jerry cans together)
- Secure all equipment and luggage
- Pack food in containers / boxes so they do not rub or rattle – this can cause them to rupture
- Split your water and fuel requirements over more than one container and ensure containers do not rub against each other
- Do not carry fuel inside your vehicle

### Trailers and Heavy Vehicles

Trailers and heavy vehicles are not recommended for the CSR due to concerns for safety, the environment, and track conditions.

Part of the attraction of the CSR is the challenge of driving through such a vast and wild natural area. This great experience is in part being lessened by track and roadside damage caused during attempts to haul trailers and heavy vehicles over the 1000 plus sand dunes.

Corrugations on the CSR have snapped trailer axles which renders them immobile. Not only does this cause angst for the owners but also expensive recovery costs or wrecks being left on the CSR.



# Permits

## Native Title and The Canning Stock Route

Native title rights sit over Yiwarra Kuju/the Canning Stock Route (CSR). Predominantly, the native title held is the highest form of native title – a right to exclusive possession and enjoyment. CSR Country native title holders have a legal right to give or withhold permission for people to travel over this Country, unless people have some other right of access.

These native title rights are subject to a public “right of access” over the CSR. This is the original historic stock route. This means there’s a combination of different rights, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, along the CSR.

Native title holders want you to enjoy your rights as you travel through this beautiful and fascinating country. They ask that you also understand and respect theirs.

Because you are reading this booklet, it is likely that you have already purchased a CSR permit.

The next section explains why this is necessary, why it helps to look after the CSR in the long term, and how it helps communities who have responsibilities for this Country.

## Why do you need a permit?

The public “right of access” corridor includes within it many significant Aboriginal sites registered and protected under the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972. The public “right

of access” along the CSR does not apply to these registered sites. The permit gives you access to the majority of these sites – in particular, the wells and the area around them. (See page 18, which discusses the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act and the penalties for interfering with sites or artefacts) This is the first reason a permit to travel the CSR is required.

The second reason is today’s 4WD track that you will travel on deviates at points from the original historic stock route and takes the 4WD track into Country where the public “right of access” does not apply.

The third reason is purchasing a permit assists the five CSR native title corporations to manage the CSR effectively, through Kuju Wangka. Visitor numbers travelling the CSR are rising every year. You will see some of the impact of this visitation on Country. Native title corporations work closely with a variety of government, non-government and voluntary organizations to manage the CSR.

It is likely you will see Indigenous Rangers as you travel through CSR Country. Their job is to protect the cultural, environmental and heritage values of the CSR and adjacent Country. They would be very happy to talk to you about what they’re doing.

By getting a permit to travel the CSR, you are working with traditional owners all along the CSR. Being in possession of a permit will also help to ensure any engagement with traditional owners along the way can be a positive encounter, helping build trust and respect for the privilege of travelling through their land.

## What is permit money used for?

Permit money is used on administration of the permit system and projects managing the cultural, environmental, and heritage values of the CSR.

## What does the permit cover?

The issuing of a CSR permit will be for a period of 4 weeks from the date nominated by the applicant. A CSR permit covers the permit holder, their passenger(s) and their nominated vehicle. The permit is non-transferable and allows entry to approved sites listed in the permit document.

Providing you have a permit, you will be able to access the following places:

- Durba Springs (you are requested not to stray from the track to the Springs).
- Diebil Spring
- Onegunyah Rockhole
- Western section of Lake Disappointment
- Track to McFadden Ranges (the traditional owners ask that people only camp in the range rather than trek)
- Helen Hill
- Turtle Hill
- Slate Range
- Ural Native Well
- Libral
- Lake George
- Lake Winifred

Public access restrictions continue to apply to:

- Mt Shoesmith
- Wandurba Rockhole
- Billigilli Well
- Percival Lakes
- Puntawarri and Puntawarri track
- Callawa track
- Savory Creek track
- Killagurra Spring
- Durba Hills
- Biella Spring
- Calvert Ranges
- Contance Headland
- Carnarvon Ranges
- Access tracks to all of the above
- Helena Spring

## Other Permits

A separate permit is required to enter the Paruku Indigenous Protected Area.

Permission to access the CSR via Glen-Ayle, Granite Peak, and Cunyu pastoral stations is also needed. Please contact station managers directly for further information. Contact details are on page 47.

Please note a CSR permit does not allow people to undertake any other activity apart from recreational tourism travel. Requests to conduct any other activity on the CSR or adjacent native title Country should be addressed to the respective PBC.

### Code of Conduct: Terms on which the permit is granted

CSR permits are granted on the basis that all persons to which the permit extends enter Aboriginal land at their own risk and agree that the landowners or occupiers shall not be liable for any loss, damage or liability of any kind arising out of or in relation to the entry onto Aboriginal land, no matter how much loss, damage or liability arises, whether by fault or default or negligence.

CSR permits are:

- Granted subject to the general conditions contained in the application.
- Automatically revoked if the traveller breaches any general condition.
- Granted on the condition that the applicant obeys all directions of traditional Aboriginal owners whilst on Aboriginal land.
- Granted on the basis the applicant is aware of the requirement for self-sufficiency on CSR Country, is adequately prepared and at all times undertakes to uphold the Leave No Trace principles on page 40.

CSR permits do not

- Authorize the entry of a person to a dwelling, community or living area belonging to Aboriginal people without the consent of the owner, occupier or community.
- Authorize the Applicant to discharge a firearm while on Aboriginal land. Unauthorised use of firearms on Aboriginal land is prohibited.
- Enable the Applicant to perform any activities not associated with the stated purpose of the visit.

The Applicant is aware that any person who excavates, destroys, damages, conceals or in any way alters an Aboriginal site commits an offence against the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The penalty for the offence:

- For an individual – \$20,000 and imprisonment for 9 months
- For a body corporate – \$50,000

The complete permit document package must be carried at all times within the vehicle. The permit holder must provide the permit for inspection if requested to do so by a representative of the traditional owners or a law enforcement officer.



### Ranger Teams

Each native title area traversed by the CSR has long term ranger programs in operation. Ranger programs work to look after Country, cultural sites and conduct environmental management work. It is ranger program staff who you will be most likely to meet on the CSR. Ranger programs undertake permit checks and are available to discuss CSR Country management matters or concerns.





# Cultural Heritage

## A line across the Western Desert

Yiwarra Kuju/the Canning Stock Route (CSR) follows the traditional waters, and crosses the traditional lands, of Western Desert peoples who share many social, linguistic, material culture and religious views in common. Tangible expressions of peoples' long-term occupation, use and enjoyment of these significant deserts are represented across a range of archaeological sites.

These sites include artefact scatters, grindstone stations, stone arrangements, rock shelters with occupation deposits and quarry sites etc.



Archeology of the Canning Stock Route by Peter Veth.

**Desert peoples from the beginning**

Western Desert people hold that they have always been on their lands – inextricably linked through their Dreamings, (jukurrpa). Research carried out with Western Desert people at sites along the CSR.

– From Katjarra (Carnarvon Ranges) in the south; Jilukurru and Kaalpi (Durba Hills and Calvert Ranges) in the centre and Parnkupirti (Salt Pan Creek on the edge of Paruku or Lake Gregory) in the north shows that people have occupied the Western Desert for some 50,000 years. Artefacts include flaked stone tools, grindstones, ochre, dietary faunal remains and remnants of old fireplaces. These desert landscapes – thought by many to be ‘marginal’ have been the homelands for Western Desert people for as long as all other Australian bioregions.



During these 50,000 years there have been major climate changes – such as the last glacial maximum (from 30,000 to 18,000 years ago) – when conditions were considerably drier, colder and windier than today; and intensification in the El Niño Southern Oscillation (between 4,000 – 2,000 years ago) when the climate was much more volatile.

**Different kinds of sites reflect different economic and social activities**

Scatters of flaked and ground stone artefacts occur most often near more reliable water sources (such as springs and rockholes) but are also found at more ephemeral water sources such as claypans that are replenished periodically after local rainfall. These can be special-purpose sites (for example where spear shaft are sharpened or wooden dishes fashioned) or where family groups camped together. They can vary from just several artifacts, up to over one million artifacts in just one location.

Some of the largest sites represent aggregation locales – places where family groups speaking different dialects would come together periodically to hold large gatherings; exchange information; trade and exchange goods and reinforce social bonds and kinship that link all Western Desert people together.

These occupation sites reflect the pulse and ebb of desert societies where the social imperative to come together in larger groupings is always working within the constraints of the ecological pressure for them to disperse. Social dynamism and flexibility in group composition has always underwritten desert adaptations.



**“People have occupied the Western Desert for some 50,000 years”**

Quarry sites are special stone outcrops which are ideal for making tools – such as the ‘tula adze’. Tulas are special wood working implements (like chisels) which are used to adze, chisel and cut in to hardwoods (and other materials) to make important objects like spear throwers, digging sticks, bowls and spears. They are mounted in spinifex resin to a handle and able to be sharpened and reused. There are many such wood working tools on the CSR as well as scrapers and a wide range of grinding stones – for processing seed and plant materials



**Custodianship for future generations**

Some of these sites and artefacts are more obvious than others. Stone arrangements and grindstones may be highly visible – while extensive artefact scatters near soaks, springs and claypans may be less so. There are also stone and organic artefacts lying beneath the ground near most water sources and wells on the CSR. Some very old boomerangs were unearthed by 4wd traffic at Kartaru (Well 24) in 2008. Assistance in minimising impact on this heritage is needed.

As these sites and artefacts are an irreplaceable record of peoples’ use of these lands it is not permitted to remove them (under state and federal heritage legislation). It is also a good idea to think about where you are going to camp; minimising ground disturbance and not raking up areas – as this will always affect these sites which may be many thousands of years old.

The lands are literally ‘alive’ with Dreamings, historic connections and numerous tangible materials such as the occupation sites, objects and artefacts – just some of which have been described here.



Rock Art on the Canning Stock Route by Jo McDonald and Peter Veth.

## Desert peoples from the beginning

Many visitors to the CSR will be familiar with Western Desert acrylic paintings. "Dynamic" rock art is also a feature of Western Desert culture. This art includes both pigment art (painting, drawing and some stencilling) and engravings (where the rock surface has been altered by pecking, scoring and abrading). While some of this art was produced relatively recently, some is also very ancient. Custodial knowledge about the role of the art can provide new perspectives about the societies that produced it and how and why this art was produced.

CSR rock art shows high levels of diversity in its style. The art of the Western Desert is complex and stylistically diverse.

## Rock Art along the Canning Stock Route

Western Desert people believe the painted art of the desert is made by their ancestors, whereas the engraved images are believed to have been left there by creator beings in the Dreaming (jukurrpa).

Engravings include large human figures (up to 3m tall) with decorated bodies, Thylacines (the now extinct Tasmanian tiger), owl-shaped archaic faces and a wide range of figurative forms such as the kangaroo, bustard and emu as well as tracks of birds and animals, circles

and other geometric motifs. Given the different styles of the engravings and their very different levels of weathering and discolouration it is obvious that this rock art was produced over many thousands of years. CSR paintings represent both everyday themes (such as plants and animals), and describe ancestral stories from the jukurrpa which cover vast tracks of country.

## Recording, dating and analysis of the rock art

The CSR provides a north-south transect through three desert systems and crosses numerous traditional owner language group boundaries. The rock art from the south (near Wiluna) compared to that in the centre near the Durba Hills (Jilukurru) and then to the north (near Lake Gregory – or Paruku) shows both similarities and some significant differences. We are beginning to understand the cultural, economic and ecological causes of diversity in this art.

Radiocarbon dates show that the most recent phase of painted art was produced during the last 1,000 years with a previous phase dating back to about 5,000 years ago. Recent work around Lake Gregory at the top of the CSR shows that people lived there when this freshwater lake was 10 times larger than it is today – some 50,000 years ago right up until the present. There is every reason to believe that art was being produced from this earliest time. The concept that people have been signalling their identity to each other and relaying their country and its creation through tens of thousands of years is breathtaking.



## Protection of heritage sites

The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 protects Aboriginal sites and artefacts from damage or loss. It protects domestic sites (such as traditional campsites), ceremonial sites (such as where rituals traditionally took place) and significant cultural sites (such as important jukurrpa sites).

It also protects any object of significance to Aboriginal people. This can include natural and created objects that have sacred, ritual or ceremonial significance as well as tools or other practical objects. It includes rock carvings and paintings, stone arrangements and structures and carved trees as well as tools and day-to-day objects used by Aboriginal people.

It's possible that you will not know that you are in a significant cultural site. It is not only sites marked by signs that are significant – the vast majority are not obvious, unless you are with a local Aboriginal person who has knowledge of the site. It is also possible to cause damage to these sites unintentionally – by driving over them, digging, clearing space, moving plants or objects. (One 4WD enthusiast in recent years destroyed an underground cave by travelling to the site away from the main track, and driving too close to the cave's entrance, causing it to collapse.)

By staying on the CSR track and using obvious campsites you will not unwittingly cause damage. If you leave the CSR track and do not use existing campsites it is quite possible that by digging, clearing ground or driving through brush you may disturb sites of significance.

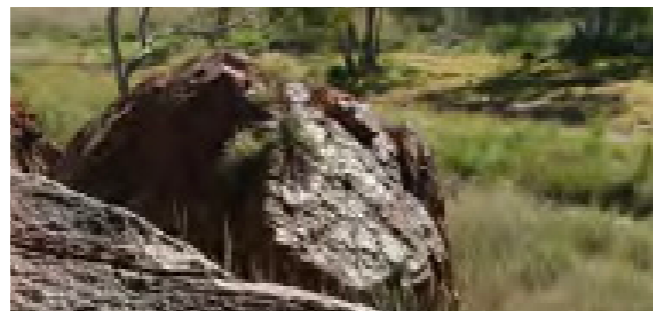
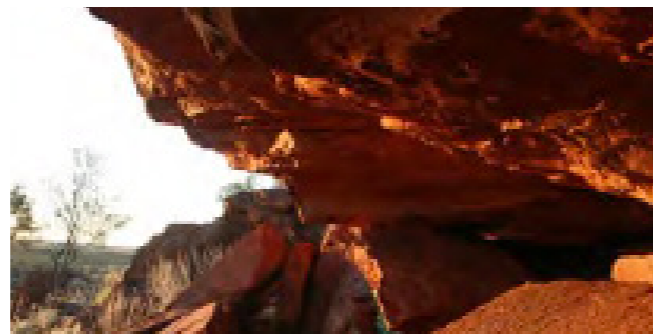
It is best therefore to:

- Stay on the CSR track, rather than exploring or following tracks off it.
- Stay away from sites or areas that have been identified by signs or in this booklet as closed.

- Limit any ground-disturbing activities to places that are obviously approved and regularly used

It is possible that you will not know that an object lying on the ground has cultural significance. The best rule is to leave things alone – certainly not to take "interesting" objects away.

There are many sites along the CSR that are of immense cultural significance. The vast majority of people respect this. Some do not – some have carved their names into rock faces holding ancient Aboriginal rock carvings, removed ceremonial items or even used an angle-grinder to remove rock carvings. You will see damage like this at sites like Durba Springs.



All sites (whether registered or not) are now protected against this kind of damage by the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

There are also many traditional campsites, covered with worked tools, blades, grinding stones etc. Many of these have become "souvenirs" for travelers. It is an offence to move any object like this.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act and Regulations restrict what can be done on a heritage site (whether registered or not). For example, Regulation 10 precludes among other things:

- Any alteration or damage to signs, fences, shelters or other construction
- Any digging of holes or other ground disturbance
- Any damage to trees, shrubs or grasses
- Any drawing or marking on anything
- Any driving, camping or rubbish on sites (unless in an approved place)

These restrictions override any "public right of access" to the CSR. Sites identified in this booklet as "Closed" or sites at which signs indicate limitations or closure, are protected under this Act.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act creates penalties for breaches of any of its provisions. These include the possibility of fines or imprisonment. But protection of significant sites and objects should not rely on criminalization of damage.

Most people will simply respect the significance, appreciate the fact that they have been able to see special places and things, and leave them for their custodians to protect and for others to enjoy.



## Photography

Over the years, photographs of men's secret, sacred designs, paintings and sites have appeared in magazines, or on websites. Photos have also included pictures of women swimming in pools that form part of secret-sacred sites that are traditionally only open to men and pictures of men drinking in women's sites.

These incidents cause great offence and distress to the traditional owners. In the majority of cases, the photographers would not have been aware that their photos were likely to cause any problem.

- The traditional owners of this Country therefore ask you to: please respect any requests on signs to limit photography or filming;
- please respect any instructions from Aboriginal Rangers or local Aboriginal people not to photograph people, places or objects;
- please do not publish pictures in any forum (including newsletters, websites and blogs) without first obtaining written approval. To obtain approval email: [kujuwangka@outlook.com](mailto:kujuwangka@outlook.com)

Because it is not generally obvious that a painting, carving, design or site is culturally significant, it is wise to seek approval. Otherwise, it is possible to unintentionally cause offence.



**Tjukurba Art Gallery:  
Home of the Birriliburu Artists**

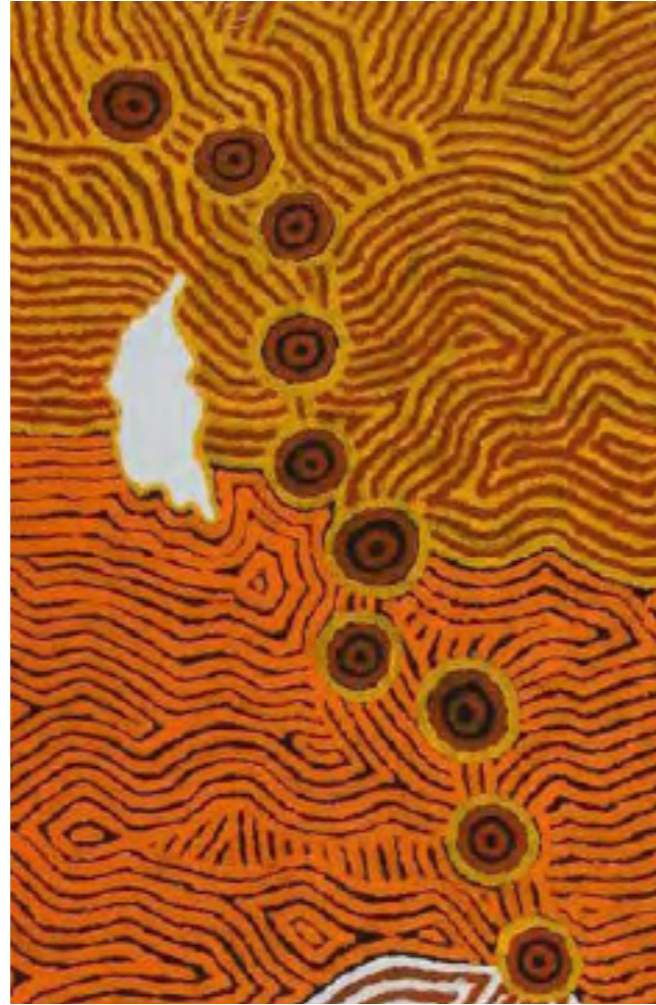
Located in Wiluna at the start of the Canning Stock Route (1,000 kilometres from Perth), the Tjukurba Art Gallery is an initiative of the Wiluna Shire Council providing a venue for local Martu cultural expression by ensuring the ethical production and sale of Indigenous art.

Birriliburu Artists paint in a variety of styles and palettes, depicting stories which embody a rich culture of country, history, and lifestyle. Images of the Canning Stock Route and the Rabbit-proof fence are often central to the works. The Birriliburu Artists are gaining recognition for paintings and works on paper through representation in the National Museum of Australia's Canning Stock Route Collection.

The Tjukurba Art Gallery is a must see destination for visitors to the Goldfields region of Western Australia.

The Gallery opening hours are 8:30am – 4pm weekdays or weekends by prior arrangement.

Contact details:  
28 Scotia St, Wiluna WA, 6646  
P: 08 9981 8000  
E: [emele.vonolagi@wiluna.wa.gov.au](mailto:emele.vonolagi@wiluna.wa.gov.au)  
W: [www.wiluna.wa.gov.au](http://www.wiluna.wa.gov.au)



Top: "The Canning Stock Route" by Clifford Brooks  
Below: Artist Clifford Brooks

**Martumili Artists, Newman**

Martumili Artists works with new and established artists, whose work showcases the diversity, integrity and strength of Martu Culture. Art is important to Martu people. Art expresses Martu culture, history and connection to country. Art is also a powerful means of building Martu identity and economic independence.

Martumili Artists gives artists equitable access to national and international art markets using accountable, best-practice systems. This addresses significant issues of unethical and unscrupulous conduct in the Aboriginal art market. This also means that the artworks sold by Martumili Artists are of the best quality: the cultural authority of the work is undiluted, the stories are recorded and authenticity and provenance of the art is undisputed.

Our communities span the Great Sandy, Little Sandy and Gibson Deserts in the East Pilbara. Our art centre is Martu governed and is hosted by the Shire of East Pilbara with the generous support of BHP Billiton Iron Ore.



(Above) Nancy Patterson with her painting Kypil Claypan; (below top) Martu grass and wool baskets; Parnngurr artists and community members in front of Martumili Ngurra.

All purchases from the art centre guarantee the artists are paid fairly and the art centre commission is reinvested into the artists' enterprise and their communities. Martu artists encourage all visitors to Martu Country to support Martumili Artists.

Please telephone or email the art centre if you are interested in purchasing artworks. Martumili Artists is open Monday – Wednesday 10am – 4:30pm, Thursday 10am – 6pm or by appointment.

It is preferred that large groups please contact the art centre in advance to ensure visitors have the best possible experience.

Contact details  
East Pilbara Art Center, Newman Drive,  
Newman, WA, 6753  
P: 08 9175 1020  
E: [martumili@eastpilbara.wa.gov.au](mailto:martumili@eastpilbara.wa.gov.au)





## Warlayirti Artists, Balgo

Situated on the edge of the Great Sandy and Tanami Deserts in north Western Australia, Balgo is a small community of around 350 people. Warlayirti Artists represents more than 200 artists across three communities in the Kutjungka region – Kururrungku (Billiluna), Mulan, and Wirrimanu (Balgo) representing seven main language groups: Kukatja, Walmatjarri, Ngarti, Jaru, Wangkatjunga, Pintupi and Warlpiri.

An Aboriginal owned corporation, Warlayirti Artists is one of Australia's leading Indigenous art centres whose artists have a reputation for producing uniquely individual and vibrant paintings: specialising in fine art paintings, as well as prints on paper, photography and digital video.

As well as a large art gallery and painting studio, Warlayirti is also made up of a Culture and New Media Centre, which support the passing on of both tjukurpa (dreaming) and contemporary stories from the Kutjungka through displays of artefacts as well as an ongoing film, photography and music program.



Warlayirti Artists is generally open to the public Monday to Friday 10 – 4pm. Weekends are by appointment only. Tour groups should contact us in advance before visiting to ensure that visitors have the best possible experience with the Art Centre and artists.

Permits are required for entry into the community. Copyright by-laws of the community restrict some photography/film on the community and in the Art Centre, but all details can be explained when you get to Warlayirti.

Balgo community is accessible off the Tanami Track, take the Balgo turn off and follow the Access Rd (31kms) to the community. Balgo is 3.5 hrs from Halls Creek and 9 hrs from Alice Springs off the Tanami Track.

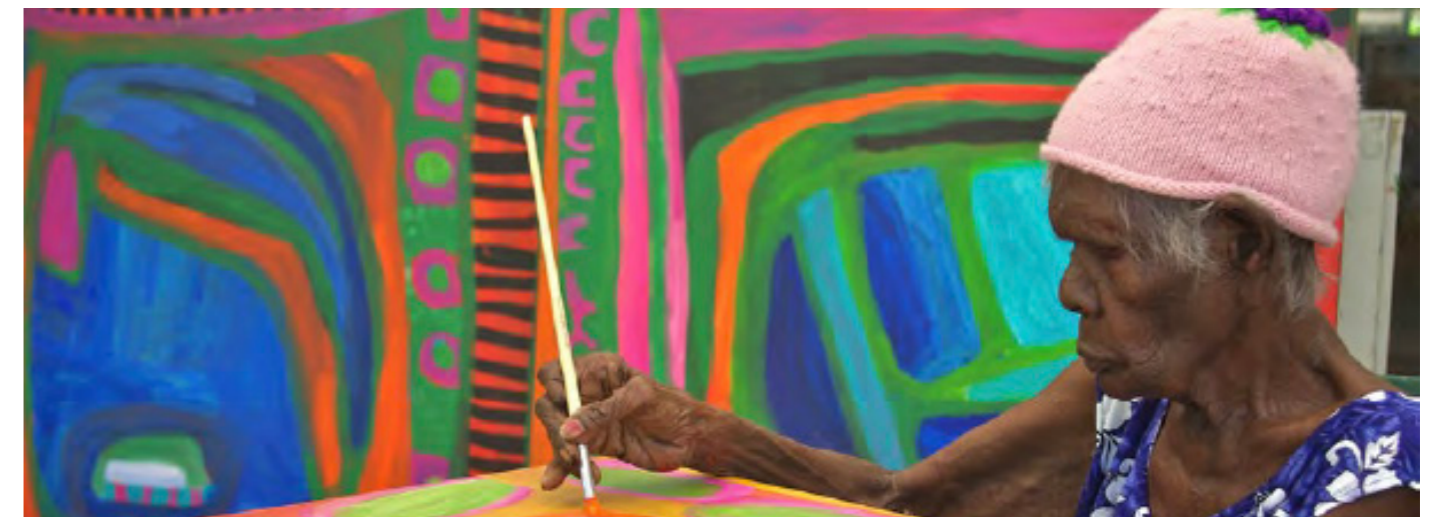
### Contact details

Lot 1 Nyirla Warlayirti Rd, Tanami WA 6770  
P: 0407 123 487  
E: admin@balgoart.org.au  
W: www.balgoart.org.au

## Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency, Fitzroy Crossing

Mangkaja Arts is a place where artists from the different language groups now residing in the Fitzroy Valley region come together to paint country and share stories in a range of artistic styles and cultures. These language groups include Bunuba, Gooniyandi and Nykina of martuwarra, the river country, to Walmajarri and Wangkatjunga from the jilji, sandhill country of the Great Sandy Desert.

Renowned for their uninhibited style and lively use of colour, Mangkaja artists paint images of country that share stories of culture and identity. Mangkaja Arts exhibits nationally and internationally, representing award-winning and acclaimed artists and supports the development of emerging artists. Many Mangkaja artists are also represented in each of the State Galleries, the National Gallery of Australia and significant private and public collections around the world. Mangkaja Arts supports culture through the maintenance, documentation and sharing of traditional cultural knowledge and activities while providing employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region.



Art Centre open for sales Monday to Friday, 10am – 4pm.

### Contact details

8 Bell Road, Fitzroy Crossing  
P: 08 9191 5833  
F: 08 9193 0041  
E: info@mangkaja.com  
W: www.mangkaja.com  
Postal: PO Box 117, Fitzroy Crossing 6765

**MANGKAJA**  
ARTS RESOURCE AGENCY



## Yarliyi Art Centre

Yarliyi Art Centre is based in the Township of Halls Creek in the Central Kimberley. Yarliyi Arts was first formed in 1998 and operates from a modern purpose built gallery and studio positioned on the Great Northern Highway.

Yarliyi Arts is an Aboriginal owned enterprise and has more than 100 artist members that practice art in a wide range of styles and mediums. Artists attend the centre daily to paint and express stories of history, people, the country and cultural connection.

The name Yarliyi is the Jaru word for small paperbark tree, a tree that was used for shelter when people lived a traditional lifestyle. The prominent language groups of artists working at the Art Centre are Jaru, Gija and Walmajarri.

Gallery open hours: Monday to Friday, 9 to 4.  
Weekends by appointment.

### Contact Details

Great Northern Highway – Halls Creek (opposite the Halls Creek Motel)

P: 0477 600 407

E: sales@yarliyi.com

W: <https://www.hallscreektourism.com.au/see-do/halls-creek/yarliyi-art-gallery>



# Natural Heritage

Yiwarra Kuju/the Canning Stock Route (CSR) crosses some of the harshest yet most beautiful desert country in Australia. It traverses six IBRA bioregions (Interim Bio-Regionalisation of Australia): the Murchison, Gascoyne, Little Sandy Desert, Great Sandy Desert, Gibson Desert and Tanami bioregions.

Relative to other areas of Australia, the majority of CSR Country is largely undisturbed. It has not been impacted on by intensive land uses, such as urbanisation and pastoralism, and consequently its landforms, flora and fauna are largely intact and diverse.

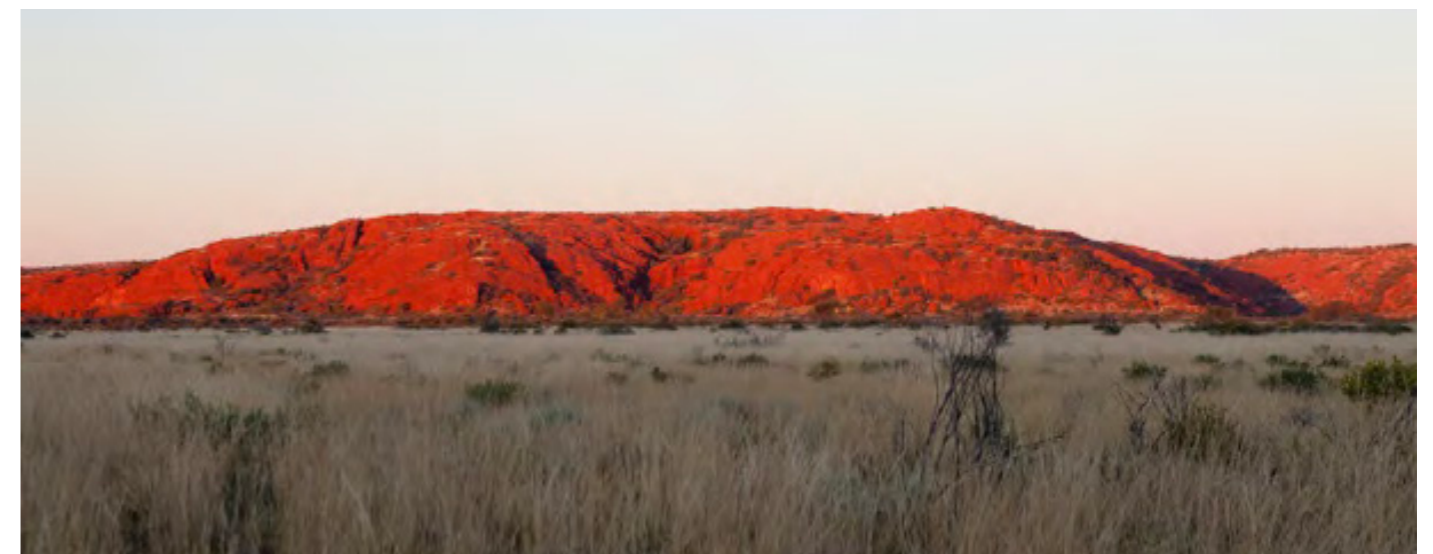
Despite its arid status CSR Country abounds with life, and has long provided sustenance for Traditional Owners. Many of the native animals in this Country no longer live in other parts of their former range. The desert remains a stronghold for their survival. The area is however, affected by landscape scale processes such as altered fire regimes, predation of vulnerable fauna by feral predators and the impacts of feral herbivores on habitat and water source quality.

## Land forms

Due to the original purpose of the CSR being the commercial movement of stock from the Kimberley to the Goldfields, its alignment was chosen to minimise overall distance and maximize access to fresh water. The CSR travels between or close to water sources used intensively by Traditional Owners.

Travelling the CSR, you will encounter salt lake systems, major creeks, rocky ranges, gravel rises, sand dunes and sand plains. Lake and claypan systems and rocky ranges often correspond with areas of biodiversity significance. In part because these habitat types are not often extensive, or are fragmented and isolated.

The lake systems and sandstone ranges targeted by the CSR are in fact not typical land surface types for these deserts. Much of the land area of these desert bioregions is covered by fairly uniform spinifex grassland communities.



## Wetlands

The CSR targets sources of freshwater, developed into the 51 wells. The area traversed by the CSR naturally contains wet areas that provide refuge to plants and animals otherwise unable to survive in this arid environment.

Wetlands are areas of high productivity, with nutrient accumulation and surface and ground-water recharge, as well as providing natural and artificial water supply – the wells. The natural wetlands range from small soaks dug by hand, to permanent rockholes and pools in creeklines.

Other types of natural water sources encountered along the CSR include soaks, springs, claypans, salt lakes, and creek and river systems.

The following areas are recognised as Nationally Important Wetlands due to their biogeographic representativeness and the provision of animal habitat during adverse conditions:

- Windich Springs
- Pools of the Durba Hills
- Lake Disappointment (Savory Creek) System
- Lake Dora (Rudall River) System
- Rock pools of the Breadon Hills
- Lake Gregory System

Natural wetlands provide resting and breeding places for many species of waterbirds and contain high numbers of endemic species (those not found elsewhere). Wetlands are critically important in desert areas, not only for plants and animals reliant on occasional or permanent water, but also for the survival of the desert people.

## Flora

Covering 6 IBRA regions with distinct landforms, the country surrounding the CSR has a rich array of vegetation types and plant species. Many plant species are little known to western science and poorly collected and understood. Traditional Owners hold a deep knowledge of plants, and continue to use plant species for many reasons. Food, medicine, ceremonial use, tobacco, making tools and weapons, and to obtain water, are some of these uses.

The most widespread vegetation along the CSR is spinifex grassland, occurring on a wide range of environments, including sand plains, dunes and sandstone and quartz hills. At least ten species of spinifex grow throughout CSR Country.

Many types of woodlands also occur, including mulga, desert oak and eucalyptus. Mulga (an *Acacia* species) grows in different forms: as a tree, a shrub, and with variable leaf and flower shapes. Mulga is susceptible to large uncontrolled bushfires, because it is slow growing, so faster growing understorey species like spinifex are advantaged by altered fire regime.

Many of the wells are located near semi-saline areas and claypans, where salt-tolerant shrubs and melaleucas grow. Some of these plants, the samphires, have succulent beaded leafless stems. These plants also colonise the narrow fringes of salt lakes.

A diversity of shrublands also occur along the CSR, including various wattle species, mulla mulla (*Ptilotus*), emu-bushes (*Eremophila*), grevilleas and hakea. Areas of annual grasses, herbs and low shrubs also occur.



## Fauna

At least 10 mammal and reptile species surviving throughout CSR Country are listed as threatened under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

These include the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), great desert skink (*Egernia kintorei*), northern and southern marsupial mole (*Notoryctes caurinus* and *N. typhlops*), mulgara (*Dasymercus blythii* and *D. cristicauda*) and the black-flanked rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*).

Most of these species are now extinct through the majority of their former range, but have managed to continue to survive in the desert Country where the effects of urbanisation and pastoralism are low.

Rocky hills and ranges provide shelter and refuge for animals like the euro, echidna, fat-tailed antechinus and black-flanked rock wallaby.

Great desert skinks, bilbies and mulgara usually occur on sand plains, with marsupial moles, hopping mice, and other small native rodents burying into sand dunes.

Traditional Owners have a great understanding of the animals and their lifecycles, and are expert trackers in identifying the multitude of tracks, diggings and burrows in their country.



A: *Hakea rhombales*  
 B: Dwarf bearded dragon (*Pogona minor*)  
 C: Wedge tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*)  
 D: Smooth knob-tailed gecko (*Nephurus laevis*)  
 E: Sandy inland mouse (*Pseudomys hermannsburgensis*)  
 F: Red mulga (*Acacia cyperophylla*)  
 G: Spinifex landscape  
 H: Mulla mulla (*Ptilotus exaltatus*)  
 I: Northern tinsel flower (*Cyanostegia cyanocalyx*)  
 J: Stimson's python (*Antaresia stimsoni*)  
 K: Thorny devil (*Moloch horridus*)  
 L: Sand goanna (*Varanus gouldii*)  
 M: Desert tree frog (*Litoria rubella*)  
 N: Sturt's desert pea (*Swainsona formosa*)

### Grazing by introduced herbivores

Camels, donkeys and other introduced herbivores cause damage to sensitive desert water sources, vegetation and wildlife habitat. Camel herds increase at a rate of between 10 and 12 per cent per year, and it is estimated that there are at least one million camels in the arid centre of Australia. Other animals include cattle, horses and rabbits. Over-grazing by these hard-hooved animals tramples the understorey vegetation, exposing the soil surface, and damages vegetation.

These animals foul desert water holes through excrement, and sometimes die in the water when they are unable to climb out of steep-sided rock holes. Vegetation is also damaged through chewing or breaking of limbs of trees and shrubs.

### Predation of Wildlife

Introduced predators (fox and cat) have reduced or driven many native fauna species populations to extinction. Many cat tracks can be found through the sandy country of the Canning Stock Route. Foxes and cats are believed to be the main cause of the local extinction of the black-flanked rock wallaby, which is currently only known to survive at the Calvert Range.

Cats are well suited to arid environments, and do not need to drink if feeding on live prey. Their diet often includes a plethora of small-to medium-sized vertebrates including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Cats can also access small crevices in rocky areas, taking small or juvenile mammals and reptiles that are out of reach of other introduced predators.

Foxes can survive in desert areas during good seasons. They are well adapted to survival where food supply and refuge is adequate. Foxes are mostly carnivorous, feeding on small mammals, insects and wild fruits, but will also scavenge carrion during winter. Studies have shown that foxes can impact severely on endangered or locally-rare small - to medium-sized fauna.



# Looking after Yiwarra Kuju/The Canning Stock Route

## Threats

Kuju Wangka encourages all Yiwarra Kuju/ Canning Stock Route (CSR) travellers to adhere to the 7 principles advocated for by Leave No Trace Australia:

- plan ahead and prepare
- travel, camp and hike on durable surfaces
- properly dispose of waste
- leave nature as you find it
- minimize campfire impact
- respect wildlife
- be considerate of other visitors and traditional owners

The following pages provide information to help you protect CSR Country.

Despite the CSR being largely undisturbed from intense industry and dense human populations it faces landscape scale processes that threaten its value. These include altered fire regimes, predation of vulnerable fauna by feral predators, habitat modification by pest plants and the impacts of feral herbivores on habitat and water source quality.

Increasing tourism activity is also having increased affect on the condition of the natural environment. Impacts from increased visitation include:

- Damage to cultural sites/values
- Vegetation clearing for camping
- Inappropriate rubbish management/ disposal
- Inappropriate toileting
- Track and sand dune damage including parallel track developments (those formed when vehicles take an alternative route across vegetation to avoid corrugations and rough sections of the track)
- Excessive firewood collection



## Weeds

Weeds are introduced plants that grow aggressively, reproduce quickly and outcompete native plants. Weeds have many impacts on the natural environment, including:

- Smothering and displacing native vegetation
- Negatively altering wildlife habitat
- Infesting waterways and choking the water flow
- Negatively altering fire pattern and behavior

Weeds spread naturally by water, wind, animals etc. Along the CSR weeds can be spread by people, on footwear, clothing and vehicles. There are at least 11 different species of non-native plants present along the CSR. By far the most aggressive is Buffel Grass or *Cenchrus Ciliaris* (picture below). Buffel grass was sown by pastoralists and drovers to provide feed for cattle. Buffel grass infestations occur all along the CSR and range in size from several plants to 50ha.



Buffel Grass, *Cenchrus Ciliaris*

## Help Prevent Ongoing Spread of Buffel Grass

The largest infestations of Buffel Grass occur where a water source is nearby. These areas are generally also camping areas for visitors to the CSR.

The seeds of Buffel Grass and most weed species are very light and can be easily transported on clothing, including boots and socks. Also by vehicles, on tyres, radiator vents and vehicle undercarriage components. When moving through an area of Buffel Grass please be very careful that you don't pick up and carry seeds with you that can drop later and infest other areas.

## Hygiene Measures

Kuju Wangka requests all visitors to the CSR to undertake the below Buffel Grass hygiene protocols.

- Know what you're looking for. Educate yourself on how to identify Buffel Grass so you can avoid driving or walking through, or camping amongst infestations.
- When traveling on the CSR, every morning when packing up camp undertake a personal Buffel Grass seeds check. In particular check pants, shoes and socks.
- When travelling on the CSR, every morning when packing up camp undertake a vehicle check for Buffel Grass seeds. In particular check radiator, tyres, wheels and vehicle undercarriage
- Dispose of all seed found. Primarily by burning in campfire, or carry in sealed rubbish bags for correct disposal later.

A range of other weed species occur along the CSR. For example, Khaki Weed, *Alternanthera pungens*, which is growing in the main camping area at Pinpi Gorge. There are other species that occur at other locations. Please be mindful of weeds and their impacts.

## Firewood Collection

Kuju Wangka is significantly concerned about the cumulative ecological effects of firewood collection as visitation to the CSR increases.

The CSR passes through desert Country. As such there are limited tree and shrub resources. These areas are important fauna habitat. Cumulative firewood collection over time impacts upon these habitat resources.

Trees, standing or fallen, alive or dead, are habitat. It takes many decades for trees to develop hollows, large boughs and wide canopies to support the multitudes of birds, reptiles, mammals, bugs and insects found in CSR Country.

Kuju Wangka asks all travellers to the CSR to follow the below protocols to help preserve tree and shrub habitats.

- Take only sections of fallen timber.
- Spread collection points rather than taking wood all from one area or a single part of a grove of trees.
- Collect wood between Well and camp locations.
- Do not cut standing trees for campfires.
- Bring gas or other cooking fuel sources with you and we encourage you to use these as often as possible.
- Please keep evening camp fires small and as short as possible.
- Do not take a chainsaw – as well as adding to your load they can encourage the taking of more wood than is likely to be needed for a cooking and short camping fire.
- When leaving camp ensure fires have been saturated with water, and ashes have been stirred to ensure the fire is completely out.
- Do not use petrol to start camp fires. If you are needing to do this you have inappropriately collected firewood.

## Camping

The below provides some basic information on camp sites along the CSR.

Camping is available at the below sites:

- Well 2
- Well 3
- Well 4
- Well 5
- Well 6
- Well 12
- Well 15
- Durba Springs
- Georgia Bore
- Well 23
- Well 24
- Well 25
- Well 26
- Well 33
- Well 46
- Well 49
- Lake Stretch

If camping elsewhere, please ensure the campsite is at least 100m from creeks, rivers and from water sources. Camping any closer may prevent fauna from gaining access to water.

Try also to find an open space so you don't have to clear vegetation and take care to avoid driving over spinifex humps as they can take years to recover and provide important habitat for wildlife.

## Water

The following is a list of restored wells with available water. Please be advised that these wells should not be relied upon. Start your journey with an adequate supply of water to last your entire trip.

- Well 5
- Well 6 (Pierre Springs)
- Well 9
- Well 12
- Well 15
- Durba Springs
- Well 18
- Well 23 (Georgia Bore)
- Well 26
- Well 33
- Well 42
- Well 46
- Well 49

## Toileting

Toilets are currently located at the following Wells.

- Well 3
- Winditch Springs
- Well 6
- Well 12
- Well 15
- Durba Springs
- Georgia Bore
- Well 26
- Well 33
- Well 41
- Well 46
- Well 49

At other locations where no toilet is available it is very important that the following strategies are followed so waste is properly disposed so negative environmental impact, or amenity value impact on the CSR is mitigated.

- Dig a hole (one hole per person) 15–30cm deep, well away from camp and at least 100m from any water, tracks and watercourses
- To promote decomposition, choose a site in organic soil, rather than deep sandy mineral soil and in the sun rather than the shade
- After use, and before replacing the soil/plug of sod, use a stick to mix some soil into the faeces to promote decomposition
- Replace the soil/plug of sod and disguise the hole by lightly stamping down around the edges (if possible stand a stick vertically to mark the used site)
- Human waste should not be deposited under rocks because it will decompose slowly and may wash into water sources after rain
- When possible, use locations during the day's travel to help prevent high concentrations of cat holes near campsites
- Do not attempt to burn toilet paper in toilet holes. Bushfires have been started by this practice.
- For anyone carrying black waste, Kuju Wangka would remind you that the unauthorised dumping of black waste out into the environment is an offense under section 49A of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and carries penalties for unauthorised dumping of \$125,000 for corporations and \$62,500 for individuals.

## Bathing

As there is limited water along the CSR bathing opportunities are limited.

If water is used from the wells, ensure water is carted away from the wells or rockholes. Please refrain from bathing or swimming in waterholes. E.coli bacteria have been found in the pools at Pinpi (Durba Springs), which is transferred by faecal matter and is potentially harmful to human health.

Contamination of waterways through use of soaps and detergents can affect aquatic bugs and make the water less attractive for birds, reptiles and mammals to drink. Furthermore, waterholes are often significance places for traditional owners.

Anti-bacterial hand sanitizers that don't require rinsing allow you to wash your hands without worrying about soapy wastewater disposal.

When disposing of grey waste water, spread it across the ground to enable natural filtration and dispose of toothpaste by digging a small hole and burying it.

## Washing

For dish washing with soap, use a clean pot or expanding jug to collect water, and take it to a site at least 100 metres away from water sources.

Use hot water, elbow grease, and little or no soap. Try to use biodegradable detergents for washing up and pour out used grey water at least 100m from water sources.

Strain your dirty dishwater with a fine mesh strainer before broadly scattering it. Place strainer dregs in bin or burn in fire pit.

All of these techniques will assist you in minimizing your impact on CSR Country.

## Rubbish

### Bring it in – take it out

No bins are provided on the CSR. Reduce the amount of non-biodegradable material brought with you and where possible remove unnecessary packaging prior to departure. Avoid carrying in heavy/bulky items such as glass bottles as the temptation to leave such items behind is increased..

Kuju Wangka acknowledges the burning of some waste can help in reducing the amount of rubbish needing to be carried. Most waste however cannot be burnt and should be carried out. It is unacceptable to deliberately build up a large fire for the express purpose of burning off more rubbish than would otherwise burn in a small campfire. Noting too the extra firewood requirements for such a process is unacceptable firewood use.

Rubbish has consistently been found throughout the length of the CSR. Most of the items left are non-biodegradable and can last in the environment for years. Items have been left at camping areas, including in fire places, and scattered along the side of the track. Food containers, including drink cans, tin cans, glass bottles or jars, were most commonly found during a comprehensive survey in 2009 and 2010. Tyres, fuel drums, damaged camping gear, shock absorbers, trailer parts and even whole vehicles have been abandoned along the CSR.

Before moving on from a camp or resting place, search the area for "microrubbish" such as bits of food and packaging, including cigarette filters and organic litter such as orange peels, or egg and nut shells.

Please help look after the beautiful desert Country by taking out what you bring in with you.

## Paralel Tracks

Increased visitation to the CSR has had significant impact on track condition. For a range of reasons including wet/boggy conditions or severe corrugations some visitors have deliberately driven off the main track to create new tracks to avoid these "rough" sections.

Kuju Wangka acknowledges some sections of track are now so degraded as to be impassable and that parallel tracks have become established. At all times, where possible, please help protect CSR Country by staying on the main track, and avoid using these parallel tracks.

If you need to stop along the track, please leave your vehicle on the track and do not drive it onto the surrounding vegetation. Spinifex is sensitive to trampling and does not usually recover once it has been driven over.

If another vehicle approaches, try to find the nearest small camping area or track junction to allow it to pass.



## Tyre Pressure

The CSR track is very degraded. With sections of rough corrugations, deep track erosion, bumpy churned up dune crossings, and lengthy dune 'runups'. Most of this degradation can be minimized by reducing the vehicle tyre pressure.

There is no one tyre pressure that will be appropriate through the entire length of the CSR. Therefore, it is important to change the tyre pressure to suit the conditions. A general guide is as follows:

- Fast Smooth Gravel 36 – 32 psi
- Slow/Rough Gravel 32 – 26 psi
- General Off Road 28 – 25 psi
- Fast Smooth Gravel 36 – 32 psi
- Slow/Rough Gravel 32 – 26 psi
- General Off Road 28 – 25 psi

Note: Higher pressures will be required when carrying heavy loads. All pressures stated are for light vehicle tyres.

Softer tyres with wider tread and traction help to smooth out corrugations over time. Reducing speed will also reduce corrugations development over time.

## Driving over corrugations

Large sections of the CSR are heavily corrugated. It is important to drive to the conditions and to ensure that your speed is constant.

Driving too fast can be dangerous and you may lose control. Driving too slowly may shake everything and everyone in the vehicles excessively.

It is useful to reduce tyre pressure on corrugations.

## Driving over sand dunes

Contrary to popular belief, driving correctly over sand dunes does not require the driver to go flat out.

If your tyres are at the appropriate low pressure, the vehicle in the right gear and the revs at the right level, it is usually possible to gently "tractor" up dunes, without extended run-ups and multiple attempts. Dunes can generally be crossed in low gear at less than 20km per hour with the revs maintained at 1500 rpm.

It is much safer to cross at low speed, and avoids churning up the crossing, making it uncomfortable and dangerous for future users. Most dunes do not require a long run up, so please avoid creating new run ups or extending current ones.

If you're having trouble getting over a dune, reducing the tyre pressure will give you greater traction.

These few simple tips should be followed

to help cross sand dunes without causing discomfort to your passengers and extra wear and tear on your vehicle, and without destroying the sand dunes.

- Ensure your vehicle is engaged in 4WD
- Ensure the hubs are locked
- Reduce your tyre pressure to 26 – 15 psi change gears at higher revs to maintain momentum. Consider selecting gears manually on vehicles fitted with automatic transmission when approaching dunes
- Initially try high range 4WD 2nd gear –maybe 1st. Sometimes you may need low range 2nd or 3rd gear for soft areas. Too much power on takeoff can sometimes cause the vehicle to dig in
- Use a sensible speed to climb dunes –don't reach the crest with excessive speed and become airborne. The steeper the dune the more momentum needed.
- If possible, do not use brakes to stop, let the sand bring you to a halt. If possible, stop the vehicle facing downhill, but never uphill
- Try to maintain your steering in the straight ahead position
- Travel straight up or straight down dune slopes – never cross at an angle as this greatly increases the chance of a rollover. If the rear of the vehicle starts to slide sideways turn into the direction of the slide and power down the dune
- Don't touch brakes or clutch. Generally use 4WD high 1st but don't go too slow as the front wheels may dig in avoid sudden changes of direction, sharp turns and heavy braking as tyres can separate from rims when running on low pressures
- If forward motion is lost do not spin wheels – try rocking the vehicle forward and backward a metre to compact sand restore pressure in all tyres to normal pressure once you have finished sand driving.

# Contact Numbers

## Permits and Access

CSR Permit –  
permits.canningstockroute.net.au

## Pastoral Stations

Glen Ayle (access at Well 9) – (08) 9981 2989  
Granit Peak (access at Well 5) – (08) 9981 2983  
Cunyu (Wells 1 to 5) – (08) 9981 2934

## General Permissions and Enquiries

kujuwangka@outlook.com

## Art Centres

Mangkaja Artists – (08) 9191 5833  
Martumili Artists – (08) 9175 1020  
Tjukurba Art Gallery – (08) 9981 8000  
Warlayirti Artists – 0407 123 487  
Yarliyil Artists – 0477 600 407

## Police and emergency services

Police – Halls Creek – (08) 9168 9777  
Police – Jigalong – (08) 9116 0100  
Police – Newman – (08) 9175 4000  
Police – Wiluna – (08) 9918 8700  
Police – Fitzroy Crossing – (08) 9163 9555





# Assistance during your journey

## Breakdowns

With the right preparation, your trip should go relatively smoothly. However, if you do get into difficulty and your car breaks down it is important to remember some key points.

- Never leave your vehicle. Use it for shade and shelter and remember – it is easier to locate a missing vehicle than a missing person
- Use your satellite phone or HF radio to make contact with someone. Let them know your problems and your location. Conserve energy and remain in the shade
- Distribute food and water sparingly
- If you are isolated, light a small smoky fire with green leaves during the day and a small bright fire with dry materials at night
- Be prepared to wait!

If you have an EPIRB, you may activate it in an emergency. There are very costly penalties for triggering these devices in non-emergency situations.

## Medical Assistance

In the event of a serious emergency or need for medical consultation, the Royal Flying Doctors Service Operations Centres across the country are available to handle telephone medical consultations and HF emergency calls.

These calls are switched to the duty RFDS medical officer who is nearest to the patient's location. If the RFDS medical officer determines that an evacuation is required, the operations centre duty coordinator will then task the most appropriate base that is not already flying.

Coordinators then arrange ambulance transfers for patients to the pick-up airport and from the destination airport to hospital. They will also arrange refuelling, airstrip lighting and vermin inspections and any other special requirements in support of crews.

There are airstrips near the track at Well 33, Parnngurr (Cotton Creek) and Billiluna community. Other airstrips are located at each pastoral lease to the south.

# Notes





# Kuju Wangka

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