

VISITING WADEYE AND THE THAMARRURR REGION





WELCOME TO COUNTRY

The Traditional Owners of the Thamarrurr Region welcome you to Country. We are Wangka, Lirrga and Tjanpa people, incorporating 7 language groups and over 20 clan groups across the Region. Our land and waters have significant natural, cultural, spiritual, social and economic values to our people. We ask that all visitors recognise these values and respect this Country and the people.

Wadeye is the main community and service centre for the Thamarrurr Region, and is located ~420km south-west of Darwin. It has a population of up to 3,000 people, which fluctuates as people move to and from their homelands in the Region. The Kardu Yek Diminin are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Wadeye is situated. There are numerous Aboriginal languages spoken at Wadeye, with Murrinh-patha the most common.

The Thamarrurr Region incorporates ~18,000sq km of relatively intact landscapes, including a 240km coastline where sea turtles lay their eggs along the dunes of expansive beaches. The Moyle River and floodplain provide important habitat for migratory birds, breeding grounds for fish and crocodiles, and food for grazing animals. Melaleuca and mangrove forests encompass abundant life in the wetland eco-systems. The more elevated savannah and open woodlands are dominated by eucalypts, cycads and native grasses, providing habitat to arboreal mammals and birds.

There are thousands of cultural sites in the Thamarrurr Region, which help to tell the stories of this spectacular Country. These include ceremony and sacred sites, rock art and stone arrangements, camping and recreational places, and associated heritage and values. Traditional Owners ask that you respect their land and privacy. Please apply for a NLC permit to visit the Region and ask for permission from Traditional Owners to visit their clan estates.

ABORIGINAL LAND

The Thamarrurr Region is part of the Daly River Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust, which is owned by the Traditional Owners of the Region through the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976. It is privately owned Aboriginal land, not Crown land or public land. A permit is required to enter this land, and the duration and scope of any visit is dependent upon the decision of Traditional Owners who have control over access to their Country.

If you wish to visit the Thamarrurr Region for any purpose, including entering Aboriginal land or waters and travel by road through Aboriginal land (this does not apply to public roads), you will need to apply to Northern Land Council for a permit. The permit system is designed to help protect the privacy of Aboriginal communities, preserve Aboriginal culture, safeguard the natural environment and promote visitor safety. For more information please contact the NLC office in Darwin, or apply for a permit online: <http://www.nlc.org.au/articles/cat/work-transit-tourist-permits/>

Some areas of land and waters are sacred with significant cultural meanings. Traditional Owners ask people to avoid these areas. Sacred sites in the Northern Territory are protected by the Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act. Under this Act it is an offence to enter a sacred site without approval. Permission to access sites can only be obtained from Traditional Owners, through processes outlined by the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority: <http://www.aapant.org.au/application-forms>

The Thamarrurr Rangers are the group responsible for working with Traditional Owners in land and sea management throughout the Thamarrurr Region.

Please contact the Rangers with any queries Ph: (08) 8978 2979.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect the Rights and Values of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities

- Ask permission to enter Aboriginal land and tidal waters, and obtain a permit from Northern Land Council.
- Recognise and respect the natural, cultural, spiritual, social and economic values of the land to Traditional Owners.
- Do not enter any part of the land and waters containing sacred sites unless specifically permitted to do so.
- Respect Aboriginal culture and ceremonies. This may mean that a particular area is temporarily closed to access.
- Be courteous to local Aboriginal people when visiting the Region.
- Respect the role of Thamarrurr Rangers in managing land and sea country, including fisheries compliance.
- Report any suspicious activities to the Thamarrurr Rangers.

Respect the Natural Environment and Wildlife

- Keep our Country clean and dispose of rubbish correctly.
- Do not release any engine fluids or other pollutants onto land or into waterways.
- Do not take or interfere with wildlife unless you have specific permission to do so.
- Respect the movement and protection of all species and any sensitive habitat.
- Do not speed through dugong and turtle nesting and feeding grounds when boating.
- Do not anchor on seagrass or reef beds.
- If you see turtles, dolphins, dugongs or whales please stay well clear, and if possible inform Thamarrurr Rangers of any sightings.

Stay Safe on the Water and Observe Fishing Regulations

- Observe rules and safety standards on the water.
- Slow down if there is poor visibility, bad weather, and in shallow or busy waterways. Potential hazards may not be easily seen.
- Understand and observe all fishing regulations – keep up to date with new rules.
- Take no more than your immediate needs and carefully return excess or unwanted fish into the water using best practice catch and release methods.
- Discard any fish remains in open waters.
- Be courteous to other water users.
- Report any suspicious fishing activity to the Thamarrurr Rangers or Water Police. Fishwatch Hotline 1800 891 136.

Be Crocwise

- Saltwater crocodiles inhabit the area and are dangerous to humans. Do not swim in any water or approach the edge of waterways. Clean fish away from the water's edge. For more information: <https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/crocodile-safety-be-crocwise>

BE CROCWISE 



MARRI-JABIN INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREA

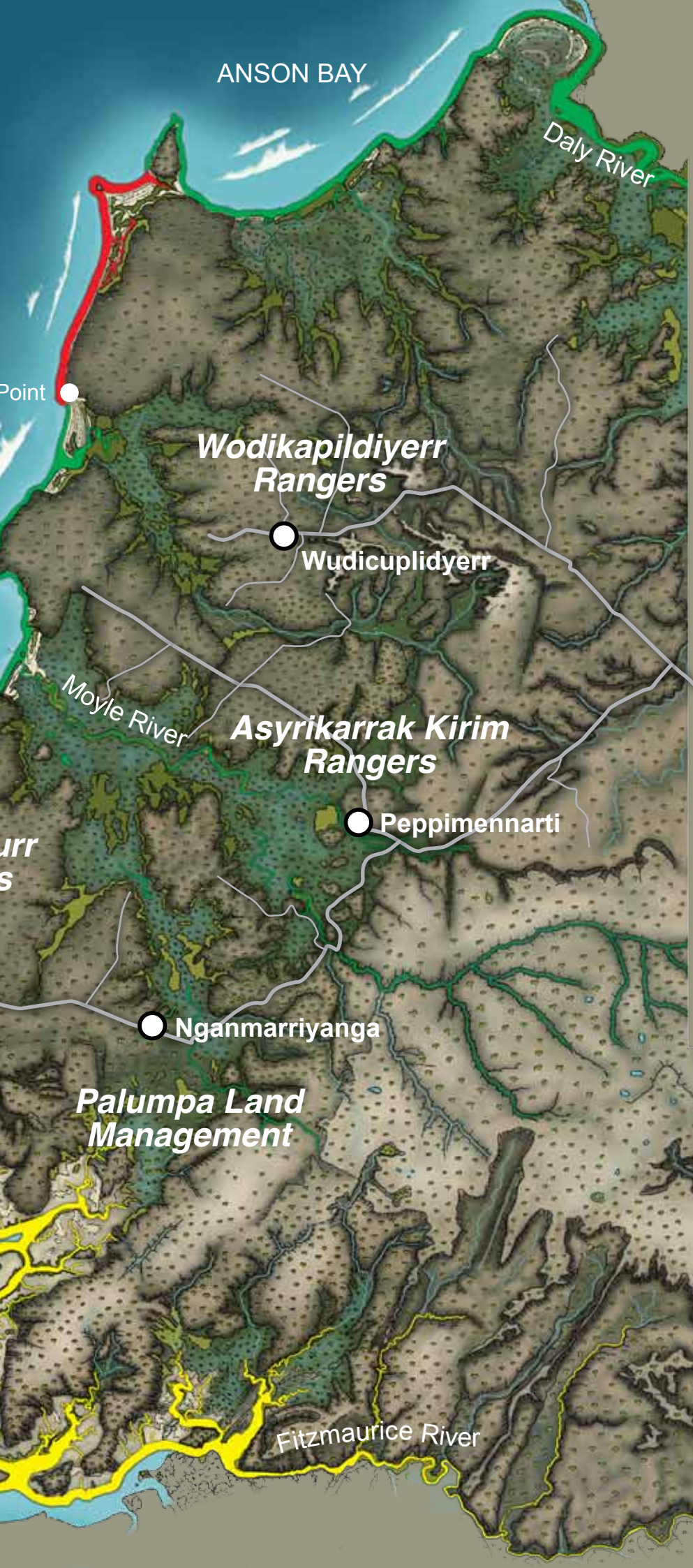
- NO PERMIT REQUIRED
- PERMIT WAIVER UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST 2018
- PERMIT REQUIRED



REEF FISH PROTECTION AREA Moyle/Port Keats

	Latitude	Longitude
A	13° 44.000'S	129° 18.000'E
B	13° 44.000'S	129° 30.000'E
C	14° 44.000'S	129° 30.000'E
D	14° 44.000'S	129° 18.000'E





FISHING IN THE REGION

From 1st January 2019, all recreational and commercial fishing in tidal waters over Aboriginal land will require permission from Aboriginal land owners and a permit or grant of a license through Northern Land Council, i.e. access to the water and land between the low and high tide watermarks. This applies throughout the Thamarrurr Region, outside the Permitted Access Area.

Traditional Owners have agreed to provide a Permitted Access Area in the Thamarrurr Region, incorporating the tidal waters from Dooley Point in the north to Old Mission in the south, and including the tidal Aboriginal land of Docherty Island. This allows recreational fishers to access these tidal waters without individual permits or permit fees. This does not include permission to access land, including beaches, riverbanks and islands. Persons found on land without a permit risk a fine. Fishers must also observe sacred site restricted areas and other codes of conduct.

No fishing is allowed in the Moyle / Port Keats Reef Fish Protection Area, which includes Emu Reefs and Howland Shoals. This area has been designated to aid in the protection and recovery of "at risk" reef fish species. In other areas, do not target reef fish for catch and release when fishing in a depth of 10 metres or more. Keep the reef fish you catch and utilise them, within possession limits, as released fish are unlikely to survive.

All fishing activity must follow rules set out under the NT Fisheries Act. Possession limits are the maximum number of fish you may have in your possession, however you should only take enough for your immediate needs. For more information on fishing regulations or possession limits, visit the NT Fisheries website: www.nt.gov.au or use the NT Fishing Mate app.



Fishwatch Hotline 1800 891 136
(report suspicious fishing activity)

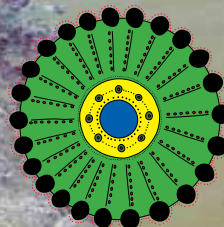
Thamarrurr Rangers 08 8978 2979

The information in this booklet does not replace the controls in the NT Fisheries legislation. For the most up to date recreational fishing regulations visit the Fisheries website at www.fisheries.nt.gov.au or contact Fisheries on 08 8999 2144
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THAMARRURR



RANGERS



**Thamarrurr
Development
Corporation Ltd**

Yinnhert - Docherty Island