



Spinifex Permit System – Frequently Asked Questions

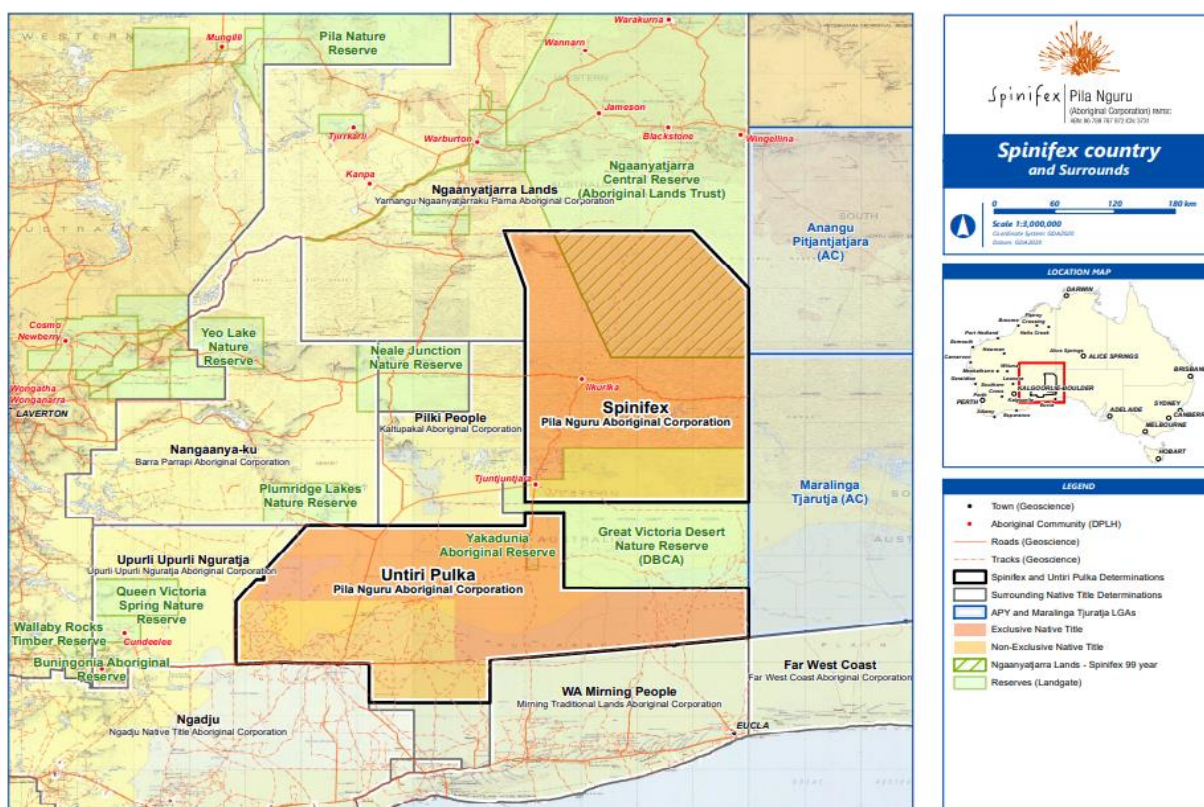
Tjuntjuntjara, and the surrounding Spinifex Country (spanning the Spinifex and Untiri Pulka Native Title Determinations areas) requires permission to visit. The Spinifex Permit system facilitates regulated access for visitors, media, researchers, other workers and those undertaking special projects. Permits vary in cost and are rarely refused.

The Spinifex Permit system is essentially about asking before visiting. Entry to Tjuntjuntjara and surrounding Spinifex Country (most of which is deemed '*exclusive possession*' under native title law) without the right Permit can result in *Anangu* exercising their right to exclude or forcibly remove people from their land under the law of trespass.

Please carefully read the information here to understand what Permit you might require and ensure your Permit is processed without unnecessary delays.

All queries regarding Permits are to be directed to Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation (Pila Nguru) in the first instance.

1. What area does my Permit cover?



The Spinifex Permit System applies to the Tjuntjuntjara community and all surrounding country that falls within the Untiri Pulka and Spinifex Native Title Determination Areas ('Spinifex Country') shown in orange in the map above.

However, you need to consider how you plan on accessing Tjuntjuntjara and surrounding Spinifex Country as you may be traversing other jurisdictions or native title determination areas. See Section 14 below.

2. Why have a Permit?

Tjuntjuntjara is a closed community. The Permit system complements *Anangu* spiritual responsibilities for the land, and:

- promotes visitor safety;
- protects the environment, *Anangu* cultural heritage sites and *Anangu* cultural and intellectual property;
- protects the privacy of *Anangu* ceremonies and other cultural events;
- promotes awareness and respect for *Anangu* land and culture;
- polices unscrupulous behaviour in as where trespass laws are difficult to police;
- facilitates *Anangu* participation in commercial and other projects.

3. I am a tourist; can I apply for a Permit?

Generally speaking, tourists are not permitted to visit Tjuntjuntjara, however you can apply for a Permit as a tourist and your application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Please note, the Spinifex Arts Project (Tjuntjuntjara Art Centre) is also not open to the general public.

4. Who needs a Permit?

Types of Permit Applicants	Permit
Anyone travelling through Spinifex country on non-public roads	Entry Permit
Air and road transport operators	Entry Permit
Non-government Contractors with an authorised work purpose (such as telecommunication, road, civil and capital works and maintenance personnel)	Entry Permit
Government subcontractors	Entry Permit
Visitors staying overnight or longer in Tjuntjuntjara or on surrounding Spinifex country, including immediate family members of individuals who are living and working in Tjuntjuntjara	Entry Permit
Staff of Tjuntjuntjara-based organisations (note: these permits will be organised by the relevant individual organisations)	Entry Permit
Journalists or news organisations producing news of the day or current affairs.	Media Permit A
Individuals, groups or organisations who wish to capture, use, or create images, footage, sound recordings, artwork, or likeness of <i>Anangu</i> and/ or Spinifex Country (whether new or existing, true to life or a representation) for personal, commercial, or public purposes.	Media Permit B
Anyone with a commercial or private enterprise intent	Special Purpose Permit
Organisations and individuals undertaking community projects	Special Purpose Permit
Anyone wanting to conduct general, environmental or health research	Special Purpose Permit
Anyone wanting to undertake tourism or ecological projects	Special Purpose Permit
Mining and exploration companies who don't have an existing Agreement in place with Untiri Pulka or Spinifex Native Title holders	Special Purpose Permit

5. Who doesn't require a Permit?

- *Anangu* living, residing or visiting Tjuntjuntjara and surrounding Spinifex Country

- Government workers including medical staff (local, territory and federal government) do not require a Permit for the purposes of their work – **however, government subcontractors do require a Permit.**
- Staff of mining/ exploration companies that have an existing Agreement with Spinifex and / or Untiri Pulka Native Title Holders.

Note: all individuals entering Tjuntjuntjara and the surrounding Spinifex Country who don't require a Permit are still expected to notify Pila Nguru in advance, so that they can be identified within community and their visit/ accommodation is recorded on the visitors register.

6. What are the different types of Permits?

Tjuntjuntjara issues the following Permits:

a) Entry Permits

Entry Permits are required for entry into, stays within, and travel through Tjuntjuntjara and surrounding Spinifex Country. They apply to visitors, non-government workers, government subcontractors

These Permits take at least two weeks to process, depending on the application. Where necessary, consultations with Pila Nguru staff and possibly Pila Nguru Board members may be necessary. To avoid delays to your schedule, please provide an entry date on your application that is no sooner than ten working days from the date of application.

b) Media Permit A

Media Permit A is for people working in public interest journalism such as 'news of the day' and current affairs. It is required for individuals to travel through Spinifex Country on non-public roads, entering onto that land and staying overnight in Tjuntjuntjara.

These applications will be processed as soon as possible. Depending on the circumstances, for example the extent of consultations required with traditional owners or communities, they may take up to one (1) month.

c) Media Permit B

Media Permit B applies to individuals, groups or organisations who wish to capture, use, or create images, footage, sound recordings, artwork, or likeness of *Anangu* and/ or Spinifex Country (whether new or existing, true to life or a representation) for personal, commercial, or public purposes. In this instance, 'public purposes' means images, footage, sound recordings, artwork, or likeness of *Anangu* and/ or Spinifex Country that is intended to be displayed, shared or accessed by the general public or in open view.

We will let applicants for Media Permits B know within ten days how long processing their Permit application is likely to take and whether costs and/or an agreement (negotiated as a condition of the Permit) will be involved.

If the subject matter is of a sensitive nature, the proposal is lengthy or there are concerns about the proposal, Traditional Owners may require the submission of a script, shot list or storyboard to assess the application.

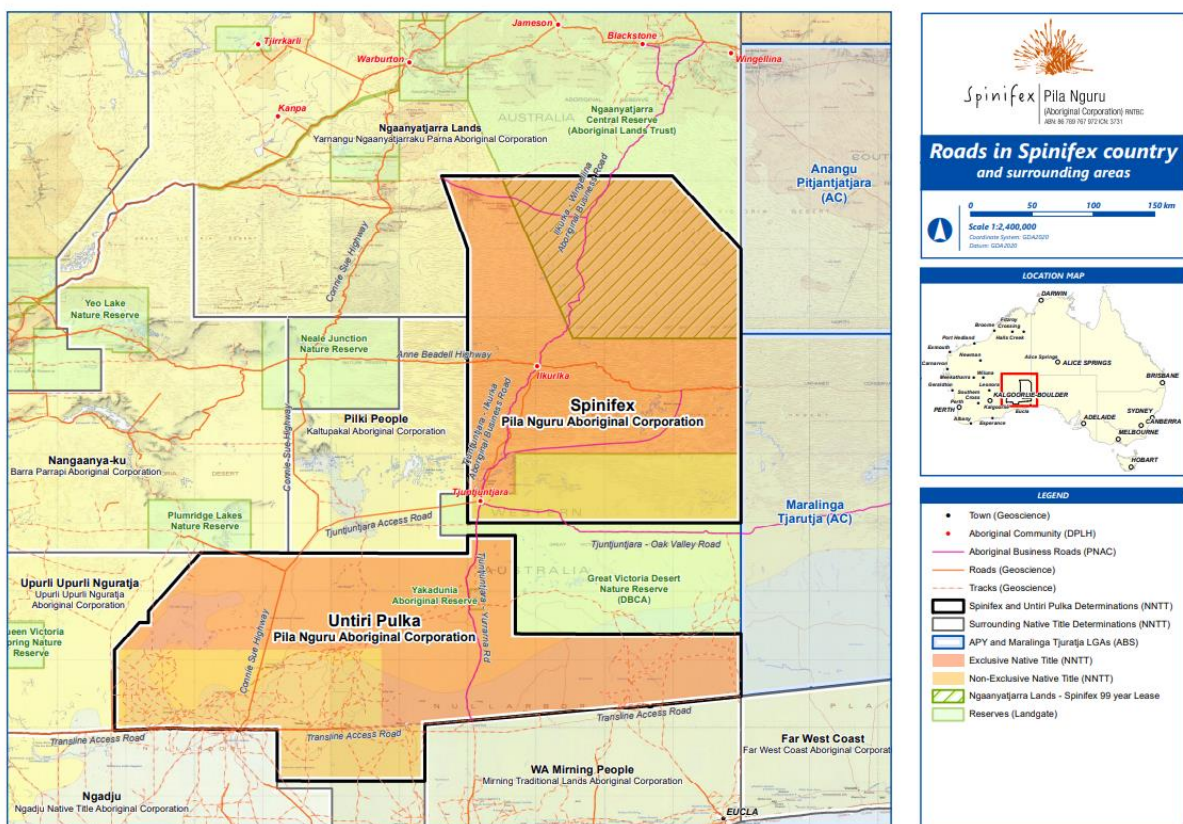
d) Special Purpose Permits

A Special Purpose Permit is required for general, environmental or health research; tourism and allied activities, and community and ecological projects in Tjuntjuntjara and / or surrounding Spinifex Country being delivered by individuals or organisations.

All research applications require the relevant ethics approvals. Allow at least two months for Special Purpose Permits because extensive consultations with *Anangu* may be required.

7. Roads within Spinifex Country

Most roads in Spinifex Country are private roads. Roads used to travel to Tjuntjuntjara and surrounding Spinifex Country need to be considered in your Permit Application. Certain roads within Spinifex Country allow for public access – see the map and table below.



Road	Public	Permit required
Connie Sue Highway	Yes	No
Anne Beadell Highway	Yes, WA side of the border. Road reserve with 100m road corridor (50m either side of the road from the centre of the road)	Yes (in SA only)
Trans Access Road	Yes – 400m road corridor	No
Tjuntjuntjara - Yurrarna Rd	No	Yes
Tjuntjuntjara Access Road	No	Yes
Aboriginal Business Road (Ilkurka – Wingallina)	No	Yes
Aboriginal Business Road (Tjuntjuntjara -Ilkurka)	No	Yes
Tjuntjuntjara – Oak Valley Road	No	Yes

You will be required to specify which roads you wish to use in your Permit application form.

8. What are the rules around Covid-19?

RAT testing

We ask that all visitors send an image of a negative Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) on the morning of their arrival to Tjuntjuntjara.

We recommend testing again on days 3 and 7 of your stay.

RATs are available at the Clinic, the Office, and at the Millen Street office in Kalgoorlie. If you test positive to a RAT, you will be required to leave the community immediately.

Representatives from visiting organisations should continue to enforce their policies and recommendations around COVID-safe measures and requirements.

9. Is there a cost?

The following non-refundable administration fees are required for Media Permits:

Type of fee	Amount
Application fee (applies to all permit applications, excluding staff and visiting contractors)	\$50 (one off), to be paid on submission of Permit application
PLUS the below permit-specific fee:	

Filming (\$250/day) (Media Permits A and B)	\$250/day, to be paid prior to commencement of the project
Still photography, artwork, and sound recording (Media Permit A only)	\$100/day, to be paid at the completion of the project
<i>Aṇangu</i> involvement in projects (including translators)	Negotiable on a case-by-case basis and are payable directly to the <i>Aṇangu</i> engaged

Exemptions to fees will be considered under certain circumstances.

Applicants for complex commercial and Media Permits may be asked to contribute to the cost where extensive consultations and/or agreement negotiations are required. In areas where Permit access entails maintenance or rehabilitation by *Aṇangu*, an appropriate fee will be advised at the time of application.

10. Do people traveling together each require a Permit?

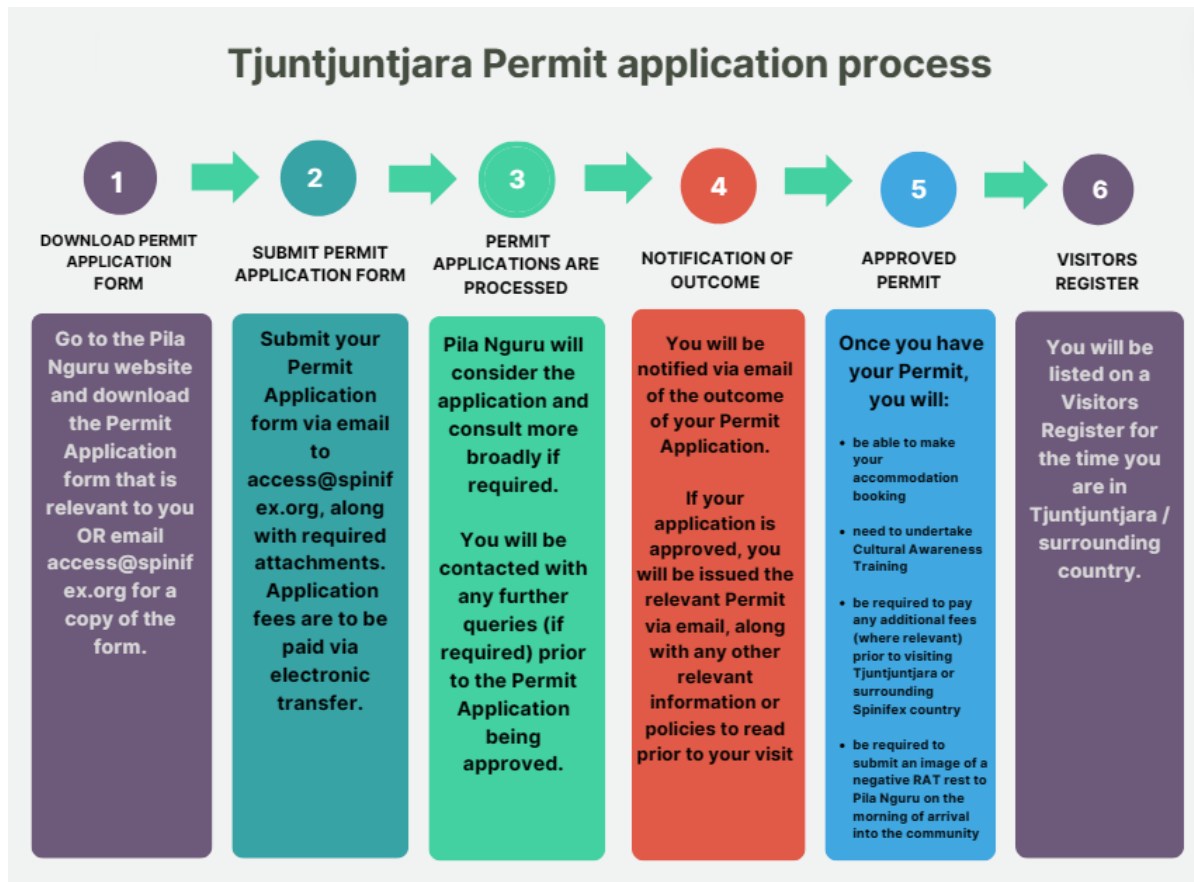
No. Travellers in a group can list all vehicles and the names of all passengers on a single Permit application.

11. How long will my Permit be valid for?

This depends on which Permit you apply for and the purpose of the Permit. If you / your organisation will be needing to re-enter Tjuntjuntara on a regular or semi-regular basis, you can request that your Permit be issued on an annual basis.

12. How do I apply?

The diagram below shows the different steps in the Permit application process.



13. Why might a Permit be refused?

Rare entry refusals are usually because of traditional ceremony activity, a large funeral or poor road conditions following rain in the area. Media and Special Purpose Permits may be refused if Pila Nguru or PTAC (Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation) Board members view a proposed project as unacceptable.

14. What other Permits might I need within the Untiri Pulka/ Spinifex native title determination areas?

Working With Children Check

If you will be working with children in Tjuntjuntjara, you will be required to show proof of a current Western Australian Working with Children Check (issued by the Western Australian Department of Communities) as part of your permit application.

Visit website: [Working with Children Check \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

Ngaanyatjarra Land Council

A portion of the Spinifex determination area is also subject to a 99-year lease held by the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council. Entry to land subject to this lease will require the additional consent of the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council.

Contact: Ngaanyatjarra Land Council

Visit website: [Ngaanyatjarra Council](#)

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

The Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve is partially contained within the Spinifex native title determination area, and is managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). Depending on the nature of your application, you may require permission from the DBCA to conduct commercial activity (including licensing, insurance and filming) within the Great Victoria Desert Nature Reserve.

Visit website:

[Licences and permits | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions \(dbca.wa.gov.au\)](#)

The federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts

If you are successful in obtaining a Permit that involves drone usage, you will be required to comply with a range of whole-of-government policies being developed by DITRDCA to support the emerging digital aviation sector.

Visit website:

[Policies | Drones](#)

15. What Permits might I need outside of the Spinifex and Untiri Pulka Native Title Determination Areas?

WA Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

If you are planning on passing through proclaimed Aboriginal Lands Trust reserves whilst travelling to Tjuntjuntjara, you must obtain an Aboriginal Planning Authority (AAPA) Lands Permit to comply with the *Aboriginal Affairs Authority Act 1972*.

Visit website:

[Apply for a permit to access or travel through Aboriginal land \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

Ngaanyatjarra Lands (WA)

Contact:

Ngaanyatjarra Land Council

Visit website:

[Ngaanyatjarra Council](#)

Pilki Native Title Determination Area (WA)

Contact:

Kaltupakal Aboriginal Corporation via Central Desert Native Title Services

Visit website:

[Pilki | Central Desert](#)

Upurli Upurli Nguratja Native Title Determination Area

Contact:

Central Desert Native Title Services via Central Desert Native Title Services

Visit website:

[Central Desert Native Title Services | Central Desert](#)

Nangaanya-ku Native Title Determination Area (WA)

Contact:

Barra Parrapi Aboriginal Corporation via Central Desert Native Title Services

Visit website:

[Nangaanya-ku | Central Desert](#)

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands (SA)

Contact:

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

Visit website:

[permits - APY \(anangu.com.au\)](#)

Oak Valley (Maralinga Tjarutja Lands) SA

Contact:

Oak Valley (Maralinga) Aboriginal Corporation

Visit website:

[Oak Valley - Community Website](#)

16. What are the main safety precautions?

- Check road conditions before travel
- Never travel without plenty of water
- Stop driving, and rest when tired
- Reduce your speed and consider driving in four-wheel drive on unsealed roads
- Take extreme care passing road trains especially on narrow or unsealed roads
- In the event of an accident or breakdown, stay with your vehicle and in the shade

Please note: PTAC may be called upon to assist travellers requiring rescuing on roads in Spinifex country, however the costs incurred will be recouped from the traveller.

17. Can I take alcohol?

No. The possession, consumption, and sale of alcohol in Tjuntjuntjara and the surrounding Spinifex Country is prohibited.

18. Can I take photos or film?

Filming and photographing in Tjuntjuntjara and the surrounding Spinifex country for non-commercial, private purposes requires no Permit. However, **do not photograph Anangu without their permission**. To extend their welcome, *Anangu* people may not deny a request for a photo even if they don't want or agree to it. Get to know them before asking to take photos, be respectful and use discretion.

See information on Media Permits A and B if you wish to photograph and/ or film for any other purposes.

19. Is there accommodation in or around Tjuntjuntjara?

Free camping is not permitted in Tjuntjuntjara and in surrounding Spinifex Country, and you will need to make prior arrangements for accommodation before entering Tjuntjuntjara and / or surrounding Spinifex country.

Barn Visitor Accommodation

PTAC provides visitor accommodation at 'the Barn' for contractors, service providers and agencies who are on business and require overnight accommodation while in Tjuntjuntjara.

Call the PTAC Office on 08 90371100 during office hours.

Spinifex Health Service Visitor Units

Visiting health specialists are to book accommodation via the Clinic (08 90371002) or Spinifex Health Service Admin (08 6188 0160).

Ilkurlka Visitor Accommodation

Visitors travelling through Ilkurlka can make bookings through the Ilkurlka Roadhouse website or by calling the Manager on (08) 9037 1147 during office hours.

20. What happens after my Permit is issued?

Once you have received your approved Permit, you will be required to:

- pay for any additional fees (where relevant)
- book your accommodation
- undertake Cultural Awareness training prior to entering Tjuntjuntjara
- Adhere to the conditions of your Permit and any other policies relevant to your Permit
- Carry your Permit with you at all times whilst in Tjuntjuntjara and surrounding areas
- Provide evidence of a negative RAT test prior to arrival in Tjuntjuntjara