

PERMITS



Central Land
Council
Alice Springs

WHAT IS THE MEASURE?

The Family and Community Services Act (Cth) makes a key change to how permits apply in major communities. Permits will not apply to 'common areas', airstrips and access roads for communities.

'Common areas' are defined as areas "generally used by members of the community but do not include a building or a sacred site".

OTHER CHANGES TO THE PERMIT SYSTEM ARE:

- parliamentarians and government workers will no longer require permits
- anyone attending a court hearing on Aboriginal land does not need a permit, and
- it is a defence to stay at a house with the permission of the residents.

The permit system will still apply to outstations and other Aboriginal land.

WHICH COMMUNITIES ARE AFFECTED?

The permit changes for communities apply to Ali Curung, Amoonguna, Ampilatwatja, Areyonga, Daguragu, Haasts Bluff, Hermmansburg, Kalkukatjara, Kintore, Lajamanu, Mt Liebig, Mutitjulu, Nturiya, Nyirripi, Papunya, Pmara Jutunta, Santa Teresa, Wallace Rockhole, Willowra, Yuelamu, Yuendumu.

WHEN DO THE CHANGES START?

No permits for parliamentarians and government workers – 18 August 2007
Other changes – 17 February or earlier if decided by the Government.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS?

Permits will not be able to be used effectively as a policing tool in communities. Definition of 'common areas' is not clear and could easily lead to disputes and great difficulties administering the system.
Which access roads will be permit free has not been determined by the Minister.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Family and Community Services Act 2007 Schedule 4