



## Protocols for Working on the Tiwi Islands

*These protocols provide guidance for people working on the Tiwi Islands to ensure they respect Tiwi property, privacy, cultural beliefs and practices.*

### Your permit

You have been issued with a Work Permit by the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) to work on the Tiwi Islands. Please keep your permit in a safe place. Failure to present a permit when requested by an authorised officer is an offence under the *Aboriginal Land Act*.

The Tiwi Islands are private property. Your permit only allows you to work on the islands; it does not entitle you to invite other people, such as friends or relatives, to visit without a permit. Your permit does not allow you to undertake recreational activities such as sightseeing outside community boundaries, fishing, shooting, or camping. If you wish to engage in recreational activities, you will need to apply for a relevant permit [www.tiwilandcouncil.com](http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com) and be hosted by a Tiwi resident. Your application will need TLC approval.

### When you arrive

Initially, look, listen and keep your opinions to yourself until you have a real understanding of the nature of the work, the environment and the people you meet. It can take months, or a lifetime, to really understand the basic issues about people and place. Please be open, honest and respectful in your dealings with Tiwi people. Respect needs to be offered and earned, particularly in dealings with community Elders and Leaders.

If you have not travelled outside metropolitan areas of Australia, it can come as a surprise to find that others may have different approaches to life. When working on the Tiwi Islands, remember that your way of life and way of doing things may not be shared by Tiwi people. You will be part of a minority and your views, values and professional expertise may not automatically be viewed as the best way of doing things. Learning about Tiwi culture will be an essential element of learning to adjust to being on the Tiwi Islands. Be patient and understanding. Like all genuinely mutual and productive relationships, engagement with Tiwi people need to be based on respect. If a community is dealing with funerals, it is respectful not to make any requests (e.g. for a community meeting or consultation) for a period of at least two weeks, or as advised by the community.

### Transport and accommodation

You are responsible for organising your own transport and accommodation on the Tiwi Islands. Please visit the Transport and Accommodation page on the Tiwi Land Council website.

[www.tiwilandcouncil.com](http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com)

Your permit allows you to drive on the main roads between communities. However, you are not permitted to go off-road or engage in recreational activities such as sightseeing, fishing, shooting, or camping unless it is part of your media agreement.

## Photography and filming

It is permitted to take photographs for work purposes, but you must always seek written permission from individuals before taking their photograph or filming them. A Tiwi Media Consent Form is available on the TLC website under *Information for Permit Holders*. A signed Consent Form provides a record of your interaction, respects Tiwi interests, and will help avoid potential misunderstandings. You must provide copies of publications, recordings, photographs or film depicting Tiwi people or property produced as a result of your work free-of-charge to the Tiwi Land Council upon request.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You will need to apply for a Media Permit to film or take photographs of the Tiwi Islands for publication or for commercial purposes.

## Media interactions

You may be keen to promote your work on the Tiwi Islands through the media, or be approached directly by the media. The TLC must be notified about media interest involving the Tiwi Islands in advance of interviews taking place. Please acknowledge the contribution of any Tiwi participants in media interactions.

## Social media

Social media posts have the potential to cause offence to Tiwi people. Do not upload audio, video or images of people to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or blogs without written consent from the individuals involved.

## Protecting the environment

The Tiwi Islands are environmentally sensitive and largely intact. To protect Tiwi land and sea country, you must comply with applicable Northern Territory and Commonwealth laws and comply with all TLC environmental and quarantine requirements.

## Crocodiles

Crocodiles are common on the Tiwi Islands, you must always assume that saltwater crocodiles are present in any waterway. They are expert hunters and well camouflaged. Don't become complacent; crocodile danger is real, and attacks can be fatal.