



## Media Protocols for the Tiwi Islands

*These protocols provide guidance for media representatives visiting the Tiwi Islands to ensure their work respects Tiwi property, privacy, cultural beliefs and practices.*

### Your permit

You have been issued with a Media Permit by the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) to work on the Tiwi Islands. Please carry your permit with you at all times. 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 and the others listed on your permit to work on the islands; it does not entitle you to invite other people, such as friends or relatives, to accompany you. 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

Please be open, honest and respectful in your dealings with Tiwi people. When approaching individuals or groups do so with a degree of respect and understanding. Ask permission if you wish to talk with them or take photographs. Be adaptable and flexible to accommodate changing circumstances. Your plans may be overtaken by another agenda or set of priorities. For example, the person you wish to interview may not be available. Be patient and understanding.

### Consent

Applicants must always seek written permission from individuals to take their photograph or film them for future publication or screening. If your organisation does not have an appropriate form, a Tiwi Media Consent Form can be downloaded from the *Information for Permit Holders* page on [www.tiwilandcouncil.com](http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com). A signed Consent Form provides a record of your interaction, respects Tiwi interests, and will help avoid potential misunderstandings.

### Payment

For many projects payment for the involvement of Tiwi people may be required e.g. documentaries, films, photo books, etc. Daily rates need to be negotiated with individuals.

### 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 sightseeing unless it is part of your Media Agreement with the Land Council.

## Cultural sensitivities

The representation of deceased Tiwi Islanders, by name or by image, is an area of sensitivity. The way each community deals with the death of an individual varies, in some cases authorising the continued use of a dead person's name and image (usually when the deceased has had a high public profile) and in others avoiding any reference to the deceased for many years.

It is inevitable that images and names of Tiwi people will remain in the public arena after their death. It is therefore imperative that people are warned in advance that material they are about to read or view could cause distress. An appropriate warning could be: "Aboriginal people should be aware that it is possible that some people depicted (in this book/documentary/film....) may have since passed away."

## Media products

Copies of publications, recordings, photographs or film depicting Tiwi people or property must be made available free-of-charge to the TLC upon request. Applicants must not broadcast, licence or sell any audio-visual recording without the agreement of the TLC. Footage and images must not be used for advertising purposes, other than promoting the film, documentary or publication for which the permit has been granted.

## Social media

It is recognised that media organisations have a social media presence. However, posting text, audio, video or images relating to your visit to the Tiwi Islands onto personal social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram has the potential to cause offence to Tiwi people. Please seek written consent from the people involved.

## Using drones or remotely piloted aircraft

If you have been granted permission to use a flying drone or remotely piloted aircraft on the Tiwi Islands you are responsible for observing the Australian Government's Civil Aviation Safety Authority rules for business or commercial use. Please ensure that your drone is not invading people's privacy by filming individuals or private property.

## Honesty is the best policy

Visiting the Tiwi Islands under the guise of pursuing one story or project while actually pursuing another is inadvisable, and repercussions may include exclusion from future visits. Permit holders have been invited to visit the Tiwi Islands by the TLC. Jeopardising this invitation by adopting deceptive tactics will make future interactions difficult for all media representatives.

If you behave appropriately, are not unreasonably intrusive and represent Tiwi Island issues fairly, you will be welcome to visit again.