



Trademark of Australian National
Four Wheel Drive Council Inc.

Four Wheel Drive Australia

GPO Box 79
Canberra ACT 2601

Website: <http://www.anfwdc.asn.au>

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FOUR WHEEL DRIVE COUNCIL INC.

ABN 40 672 552 892

Representing drivers in all states and territories

The Australian National Four Wheel Drive Council, known as 4WD Australia, on behalf of the Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation (NWAC) is now issuing permits for travel through the Nyangumarta native title lands along the newly renamed Nyangumarta Highway. The Nyangumarta Highway, formerly known as the Kidson Track, is an iconic desert track and one of the longest private roads in Australia.

4WD Australia was approached by the Nyangumarta people in 2012 to establish a permit for the Kidson Track following the success of the Canning Stock Route permit system with the Martu in promoting responsible four wheel driving and recognition and improved management of Aboriginal lands.

In 2014 following funding provided by New Standard Energy and in-kind support from Yamatji Marpla Aboriginal Corporation, a joint 4WD Australia and NWAC team surveyed a number of tracks and trails in NWAC's native title land in the Great Sandy Desert for the purpose of establishing the permit and access to Nyangumarta Lands. From 1 March 2015, the permit system will be made available through 4WD Australia's web site, and travellers will be welcome to drive and camp along a 310 kilometre stretch of the Great Sandy Desert and explore the Nyangumartas people's native title lands. Access to Nabaru Rose's track, a 100 kilometre return branch track, is also provided with the permit.

The Nyangumarta Highway commences near 80-Mile Beach south of Broome and heads east towards Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route, traversing open country covered with sand dunes and light scrub. It takes most people about 2 days to complete the journey. The area is so remote it was once set aside for the British and Australian governments long range ballistic missile testing program called "Blue Streak" that involved firing missiles from the Woomera testing ground in South Australia across continental Australia into the Great Sandy Desert and the Nyangumarta people's traditional lands.

ANFWDC Treasurer, Lee Smith, manages and administers the permits for the Canning Stock Route and has done so for 7 years. He is based in Adelaide and gathers permit applications from the website, provides information about track conditions and best travelling times and mails out the permits and information kits. "I enjoy the role of permit manager," Mr Smith said, it enables me to discuss people's plans and to ensure they sound well-prepared and adequately equipped for their journeys."

National Council President, Brian Hevey says, "The partnerships 4WD Australia is forming with land managers and traditional owners reflects the role our Council plays in this enormous, growing recreational pursuit. In central and northern Australia as more and more traditional groups have native title recognised, there is an enormous need to find new ways to assist their representative organisations secure funding for land management, and to promote native title as a form of Indigenous land ownership that can co-exist with other land uses and enhance wider Australia's understanding and support for Indigenous people." With a quarter to a third of vehicles now sold in Australia being SUVs or 4WDs; and a fair percentage of those used for touring, there is an increasing need to better manage our outback roads and tracks. Permits ensure that tracks are not over-used or damaged; that destinations and likely routes are known and recorded (for safety); and, that camping grounds, Aboriginal sites and facilities are kept

well-managed". "This keeps everyone happy and safe", Mr Hevey said, and contributes to good, sustainable land and track management.

Useful facts and figures:

Approximately 600 people obtain permits for the Canning Stock Route each year and it is believed a similar number travel the Kidson Track

The permit fee for Nyangumarta Highway, to be introduced on 1st March 2015, is \$55 including GST for each four wheel drive vehicle and includes trailers, if applicable. Revenue generated from permits covers administration of the permit system, with the largest proportion provided to NWAC for use towards ongoing management and protection of environmental, cultural, and heritage values of the Nyangumarta lands...

In 2015, 4WD Australia will be working with NWAC to expand the tracks available with the permit. This will include creating a new loop road that partly follows Warburton's 1873-1874 historic expedition route from South Australia via central Australia and the Great Sandy Desert to De Grey Station on the West Australian coast.

For further comment regarding this story, please contact the President, Brian Hevey.

He is based in Hobart, Tasmania.

Mobile phone: 0418 121 373.

Personal e mail: bhevey@me.com.

.