



# kakadu<sup>®</sup>

NATIONAL PARK

**Garri-djarrkurrkmirri [garri-djarrk-durrkmirri]**  
Working together

# TOURISM INDUSTRY UPDATE

GUDJEWG SEASON

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## Welcome to 2015!

We hope that you all enjoyed a safe and relaxing festive season and are ready to tackle the new year.

It is hard to believe it is Gudjewg already - endless seas of green vegetation, some swollen billabongs, flooded waterways, and some spear grass already at shoulder height!

With recent storm activity, localised flooding can occur across roads. Drivers should be aware of fast flowing water and the potential presence of crocodiles in water crossings in Kakadu National Park. Do not enter the water and stay inside the vehicle at all times while crossing water bodies in vehicles.

Severe storms can cause flash flooding and significant stream rises, sometimes with very little warning. Please travel safely and take any changing weather conditions into account.

Sign up to our road report to receive up-to-date information on site access and road conditions: <http://kakaduroadreport.wordpress.com/>

## Ubirr Wet Season Access

If the Magela Creek crossing is "Impassable" (0.5m), Ubirr will be closed to free and independent travellers. Permitted operators with special access permits may access Ubirr with their issued keys at their own risk.

If you are yet to apply for an Ubirr Wet Season Permit, please follow the link to download an application package.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators#guidelines>

## Great News!

As promised, we have a new look Industry Update for you to enjoy.

## 2015/2016 Standard Land-Based Permit Applications

It is that time of year again, and annual permit applications will soon need to be lodged. A few permit applications from operators have already come in, and we will start processing applications shortly to make sure operators receive their 2015/16 permits prior to 31 March 2015, when current one-year permits expire.

In the coming weeks, we will send out an application package to all current permit holders, so it is important that we have your current contact information. If for some reason you don't receive your application pack by email, click on this link to download a form <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators>.

Don't forget to bookmark this page as you will find all the key information to run tours in Kakadu right here!

**Duration of permit:** Operators can apply for a one or three-year permit. For a three year permit, we require operators to hold current TAAL accreditation as well as satisfying all the usual permit requirements. Please note however that the three-year fee will need to be paid upfront (see page 2 of the application form for details). This option will be attractive to those operators who are looking for permit continuity and want to avoid the hassle of filling out an application every year.

**Tips for applying:** For speedy processing and to avoid phone tag from us, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- Please take a few moments to re-familiarise yourself with the conditions linked to your standard land-based permit – and ask your guides to do the same!
- Ensure all questions are completed – if more space is needed then attach a separate sheet
- Make sure your attached public liability schedules prove you're covered beyond 31 March 2015
- Attach your promotional material. If it's not ready we will accept a draft or alternatively your website address (please write this on the checklist on page 12)
- Ensure your tour leaders have completed the Kakadu Knowledge for Tour Guides course
- Select your permit duration and provide payment details – sorry, Amex is not accepted
- Complete the application checklist (page 12) – this is your toolkit to make sure we've got everything needed for a quick turn around
- Sign and witness the declaration and agreement pages.

Remember that it is a condition under the permit to carry a copy of the current permit conditions while conducting tours in Kakadu. If you were granted a three-year permit last year, don't forget to update your documents [what kind of documents? We should probably give examples/specify]. Simply follow above link and print out the conditions that come as part of the application pack.

**When will I get my permit?** Please allow a minimum of 14 days for application processing.

**Need more information?** Please contact [Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au) or phone 08 8938 1176.



## Sign up to the NERP Newsletter to Learn More about the Environment in the Top End

The National Environmental Research Program (NERP) funds environmental research to support decision making. NERP funds biodiversity research and delivery of information that the Australian Government needs to better inform environmental management, policy and decision making, both in the short term and for the future.

The NERP Northern Australia Hub is hosted by Charles Darwin University, and focuses on the terrestrial, freshwater and estuarine ecosystems of the northern savanna landscapes. Much of the research has an adaptive “catchment to coast” planning and management framework.

From mid-2015, research will continue through funding under the National Environmental Science Programme. The new Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub will also be hosted by Charles Darwin University and planning is underway for the hub’s research projects.

If you would like to learn more about the Top End’s ecosystems and environment, visit the NERP Northern Hub’s website or sign up to their newsletter. [This is new text from NERP, to take account of the change to NESP]

<http://www.nerpnorthern.edu.au/news/newsletter>



National Environmental  
Research Program

## World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971.

For more information on the Ramsar Convention and Kakadu as an internationally recognised area for wetlands of significance, check out our Know Your Kakadu section below.



The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2015 is *Wetlands for Our Future – Join us!*

As one of Ramsar’s protected waterways, this year Kakadu National Park will be celebrating at Bowali Visitor Centre, together with the ERISS (Environmental Research Institute of Supervising Scientists), NERP (National Environmental Research Program), Children’s Ground, Cooina Lodge and West Arnhem College. We’ll be providing free community activities promoting care of our wetlands (please see attached flyer).

If you happen to be in Jabiru on Monday 2 February please come and join us at Bowali Visitor Centre between 9:00 am and Midday. Moreover, if you would like to be involved or there is an activity you’d like us to promote please let us know by contacting [Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au).

## Commercial Image Capture Guidelines

We think Kakadu is a fascinating place, and a focus for photographers and film makers from around the world agree!

Each year, we process more than 100 commercial film and photography permits, helping crews create the documentaries, travel shows, photo spreads and the like, which help promote our beautiful park to a huge global audience. Many of these are promotional projects in publicly accessible areas or nature/culture based docs that require park support or consultation with traditional owners.

As a result of the filming and photography demand, Kakadu is seeking to establish a set of guidelines that will streamline the permit application process, while educating prospective film-makers/photographers about Kakadu's values, the Shared Tourism Vision and joint management, and creating opportunities for Bininj through employment.

If you have hosted, supervised or been a part of a group that has conducted commercial image capture within Kakadu, we are interested in what you have to say. We would like to ask you to take a few minutes to complete our online survey, and share your thoughts on your commercial image capture experience by following the link provided. Your feedback will help steer the image capture guidelines and hopefully encourage many more successful film and photography crews into our park in the future.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/webform/kakadu-national-park-commercial-image-capture-survey>

## Your Opportunity to Comment on Kakadu's Future Management

After a great deal of work, Kakadu has recently drafted a new management plan for the park.

The Draft Plan is available for public comment until 30 January 2015. The Board of Management will consider all comments received and produce a final plan. We intend for the final plan to be sent for parliamentary approval in late 2015.

For more information on how to provide comment: <http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/kakadu-draft-management-plan>.

In addition to this, a 'mini plan' has been prepared for Binini/Munggu, the traditional owners of Kakadu. It summarises in plain English the Draft Management Plan for Kakadu, and has also been translated into the local Gundjeihmi Aboriginal language. The mini plan is also available at the address above.



*Violet Lawson and Murray Garde discussing the 'mini plan'*

## Stay Safe in Kakadu this Wet Season

- Obey all signs and drive to the conditions.
- Look out for wildlife seeking higher ground on roads and bridges.
- If heavy downpours reduce visibility, slow down or pull over to the side of the road.
- Check depth indicators and the speed of the water before crossing creeks.
- Remain cautious near waterways. With rising water levels, crocodiles are on the move.
- Be wary of flash flooding after heavy rain, particularly around Gubara and Yurmikmik.
- Please slow down when approaching culverts and bridges along highways due to increased presence of fishermen.



*Kakadu Highway in flood*

## Know Your Kakadu - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

The Ramsar Convention aims to stop the world from losing wetlands and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. More than 90 countries are contracting parties to the Convention.

Kakadu National Park was the second place in Australia to be listed as a Ramsar Wetland of International Significance. Our beautiful wetlands were first listed in June 1980, and the listing was updated in 1987 and 1996 as new areas were added to the park. In total 683,000 hectares of wetlands in Kakadu are recognised on this important international list.

In March 1996 the contracting parties to the Ramsar convention also agreed to establish an East Asian/Australasian Flyway to protect areas used by migratory shorebirds. The flyway provides for an East Asian/Australasian shorebird reserve network of sites that are critically important to migratory shorebirds. The wetlands of Kakadu national Park are part of this reserve network.



## Licence Applications Due by 31 January

Licences are currently being offered for:

Activity	Number of licences available
Sports fishing tours	Unlimited
Bush walking tours	Unlimited
Safari camps	Merl x 2 Gunlom x 1
Access to Jarrangbarnmi	Unlimited casual

We invite all interested tour operators to apply by **31 January 2015**. Applications will be assessed in February.

To apply for a licence, please download this form [www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/kakadu-tours.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/permits/kakadu-tours.html)

For further information about licences, please contact [Anja or Lucas, while Tracey is away?] Tracey Diddams on (08) 8938 1107

## Great News!

We would like to know what you are interested in learning about regarding Kakadu.

If you have any suggestions as to what you would like included in a future edition of the Industry Update, please forward your suggestion to [Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au](mailto:Kakadu.permits@environment.gov.au)

For more information about Kakadu National Park contact Bowali Visitor Centre on (08) 8938 1120 or visit our websites.

Visitor Information

[www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu](http://www.parksaustralia.gov.au/kakadu)

Useful forms and information

[www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators](http://www.environment.gov.au/resource/tourism-operators)