



Registered Native Title Body Corporates / Registered Native Title Claimants / Aboriginal Corporations

Any land to be used for hunting within Western Australia must be approved by the Commissioner for Police as suitable for that purpose. To do this, the land needs to be registered by an authorised person for that land with WA Police Force Licensing Services. A part of completing the registration process involves the land being assessed by WA Police against section 40 of the *Firearms Act 2024* (the *Act*) – suitability of land for hunting using firearms. Amongst many things, this assessment determines the type and calibre of firearm able to be used for hunting on the land, and the number of hunting permissions able to be issued.

Authorised person for land

An **authorised person** for land is defined in section 39 of the *Act* and Regulation 34A of the Firearms Regulations (the *Regulations*). The definition is extensive, however, the part of it that applies to **Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBC)**, **Registered Native Title Claimants** and **Aboriginal Corporations** is detailed below.

Each of the following is an authorised person:

- For land covered by a determination in relation to which information is contained in the National Native Title Register under the *Native Title Act (Commonwealth)* section 193(2).
 - The Registered Native Title Body Corporate in relation to the determination; **and**
 - Any person entitled to give permission on behalf of the Registered Native Title Body Corporate for a person to engage in hunting on the land.
- For land covered by a claim for which information is contained in the Register of Native Title Claims under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Commonwealth) section 186(1).
 - The Registered Native Title Claimant in relation to the claim.

This allows the RNTBC / Aboriginal Corporation responsible for lands that are under a native title claim to register the land and issue hunting permissions for traditional hunting practices.

The RNTBC can have multiple people as authorised persons to issue these permissions, but they must be identified during the registration process for the land.

How does an authorised person for an RNTBC, Registered Native Title Claimant or Aboriginal Corporation register land for hunting?

Step 1: Find your **National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)** number on the WA Government website at the following link:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments/premier-and-cabinet/native-title-claims-western-australia>.

The number consists of 10 characters in the following format WC1234/567.

Step 2: Email **FirearmsProject@police.wa.gov.au** to register the land using the subject heading, Native Title Land Registration – WC1234/567 (NNTT) number.

The email must contain the details of the contact person for the **RNTBC** or **Aboriginal Corporation** including name, email address, mobile/phone number, and the full details of the determined claim, or the details of and status of a claim currently yet to be determined.

Step 3: Await contact from Licensing Services who will assist with registering the land and if required provide Licensing Services any additional information specific to your registration.

Note: This process is subject to change with a future release of the online firearms portal. Additional information will be made available at that time.

Hunting permissions

There are two types of permissions that can be issued by authorised persons for land:

- Standard Hunting Permission, which supports a person obtaining and retaining a firearm licence; **or**
- Temporary Hunting Permission, which allows existing licence holders to shoot on the permitted land.

An application to obtain an Individual Hunting Licence must be accompanied with a Standard Hunting Permission issued by an authorised person for land. By providing an applicant with a Standard Hunting Permission, you are advising the Commissioner of Police that you support their application for a Hunting Licence and provide permission for the applicant to hunt on that land using a firearm. A person must always retain at least one Standard Hunting Permission to retain their Individual Hunting Licence.

You can issue a Standard Hunting Permission for your land to any person who falls within your native title claim, subject to that person meeting all other legislative requirements.

Claimants

What happens if my licence is due to expire before the Registered Native Title Body Corporate registers the land?

If you are a native title claimant and are unable to obtain a Standard Hunting Permission prior to your licence expiring, you need to contact the RNTBC for the land your claim falls within to see if they will issue you with a Standard Hunting Permission.

If the RNTBC is willing to do so, obtain that in writing and provide that information to Licensing Services who will contact the RNTBC to assist them with registering their land and allocating you a Standard Hunting Permission. WA Police will take a collaborative and pragmatic approach to this.

Once I have a Standard Hunting Permission, does this mean I can hunt anywhere, on any land?

A Standard Hunting Permission only allows you to hunt on the land for which you were issued the permission. You must still obtain consent prior to each time you go hunting on that land, and you must obtain permission to go onto any other land which is managed by others, such as pastoral leases which are within a registered native title area.

Temporary Hunting Permissions

A Temporary Hunting Permission can only be issued to an existing Hunting Licence holder by landowners who have registered their land for hunting purposes. The purpose of the Temporary Hunting Permission is to allow hunters to hunt on land for which they do not have a Standard Hunting Permission. For example, hunting trips or visits to properties not previously related to the licence holder.

The Temporary Hunting Permission must be made in writing, which includes electronically (SMS, email etc.) and has a maximum period of 14 days.

The Temporary Hunting Permission must include the name of the person issuing the Temporary Hunting Permission, the name and licence number of the person receiving the permission, the dates the permission is in force, the location for which the permission is in force, and the purpose e.g., shooting foxes.

You must be able to provide the Temporary Hunting Permission to police upon request.

Contact Details

Contact Licensing Services at **FirearmsProject@police.wa.gov.au** should you have any questions.