The Woomera Prohibited Area (WPA) is declared under Defence Force Regulation 35 as a prohibited area for the purposes of ‘the testing of war material’. The WPA is in the north-west of the State of South Australia and is approximately 127,000 square kilometres (12.7 million hectares). Its south-eastern corner is located approximately 450 kilometres north north-west of Adelaide.

Members of the public traversing the WPA via the Stuart Highway and Coober Pedy to William Creek road are reminded that these roads are part of a prohibited area and that they are not to deviate.

Other roads and tracks entering the WPA are signposted to the effect that this place is a prohibited area and no person shall enter, be or remain therein without proper authorisation.

Members of the public traversing the Anne Beadell Highway from Coober Pedy to Emu Junction are reminded that in addition to a permit being required from Area Administrator Woomera, a permit is required from:

Department for Environment Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
PO Box 569
CEDUNA  SA  5690
Phone 08 86253144

Administrator Maralinga Tjarutja Lands
PO Box 435
CEDUNA  SA  5690
Phone 08 86252946

There may be some items such as cylindrical rocket motor cases and nozzles, flat rectangular pieces of metal, spherical tanks or military projectiles encountered in the prohibited area. If any unusual item is encountered it must not be handled as it could cause serious injury or death. Note the description and location of the item and report it to the Pastoral Station Manager or Area Administrator Woomera.

Within the WPA there are sites of significance to indigenous people. These sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988 with penalties of up to $50,000.00 for causing damage to or removing items from these sites.

Inquires in relation to the use of or entry into the WPA should be directed to:

Area Administrator Woomera
Defence Support Centre
PO Box 157
WOOMERA  SA  5720
Phone 08 8674211