

Filming Guide for the ACT

**A step by step guide to securing film locations and permissions in
Canberra and the surrounding areas**

Process of Approval	3
Contact Screen Canberra	3
Prepare Information on Locations	4
Whose land is it?	4
Federal Land	5
ACT Land	6
Roads	7
National Parks	8
Private Land	9
Outside of the ACT	9
Apply for Permission to use Public Land in the ACT	9
Contact Events ACT	9
Provide Information on dates, locations and size.	9
If Events ACT is unavailable	10
Federal Land - National Capital Authority	10
ACT Land - Transport Canberra and City Services	10
Road, Footpath or Car Park - Roads ACT	10
National Park - Environment	11
Private Land	11
Wait for Approval	11
Price	11
Timing	11
Filmmaker Responsibilities	11
Notification to the Police	11
Notification to Residents	11
Duty of Care	12
Firearms	12
Drones	12
Resources	12
Vacated Government Buildings	12
Australian National University	12
Canberra Airport	13
Telstra Tower	13

Process of Approval

1. Contact Screen Canberra

Your first point of call is to contact Screen Canberra about your production. Screen Canberra can not provide permissions or financial backing but can help you with information support and local crew.

Informing Screen Canberra first also allows for coordination of timing to avoid clashes with other films and event.

Screen Canberra

Website: <https://www.screencanberra.com.au/>

Phone: 02 6162 5171

Email:

Monica Penders - Director
monica@screencanberra.com.au

Victor Willis - Project Manager
victor@screencanberra.com.au

Alex Mirabito - Coordinator
alex@screencanberra.com.au

Address: [Google Maps](#)

Canberra Technology Park, Block C, Room 101C
49 Phillip Avenue
Watson, ACT 2602

PO Box 7131
Watson, ACT 2602 Australia

DISCLAIMER: This document is a guide prepared by Screen Canberra to help filmmakers. It is not a legislated protocol. If contacts or information have changed since its creation it is the responsibility of the filmmaker to seek further information and acquire the necessary permissions to be able to carry out their production in the ACT.

2. Prepare Information on Locations

Whose land is it?

The land in the ACT is not run by a collection of councils, it is made up of Federal Land, ACT Land, Roads, National Parks and land that is owned by private residents. Our version of 'councils' are the state or federal government departments that service that land.

They do not recognise your film set as a film. They consider it an 'event' much like a concert, fair, or any other organised gathering of people.

You must have permission to hold a 'filming event' from the department that services the land if you are going to set up a camera in that area.

If you are going to block road or footpath traffic you must have the necessary traffic management plan to mediate the impact on the public.



Access Canberra is a great resource if you want to talk to someone about the land or services in the ACT.

Phone: 13 22 81 - Access Canberra Contact Centre

Contact Centre opening hours:

Monday to Friday - 7am to 8pm

Saturday - 8am to 5pm

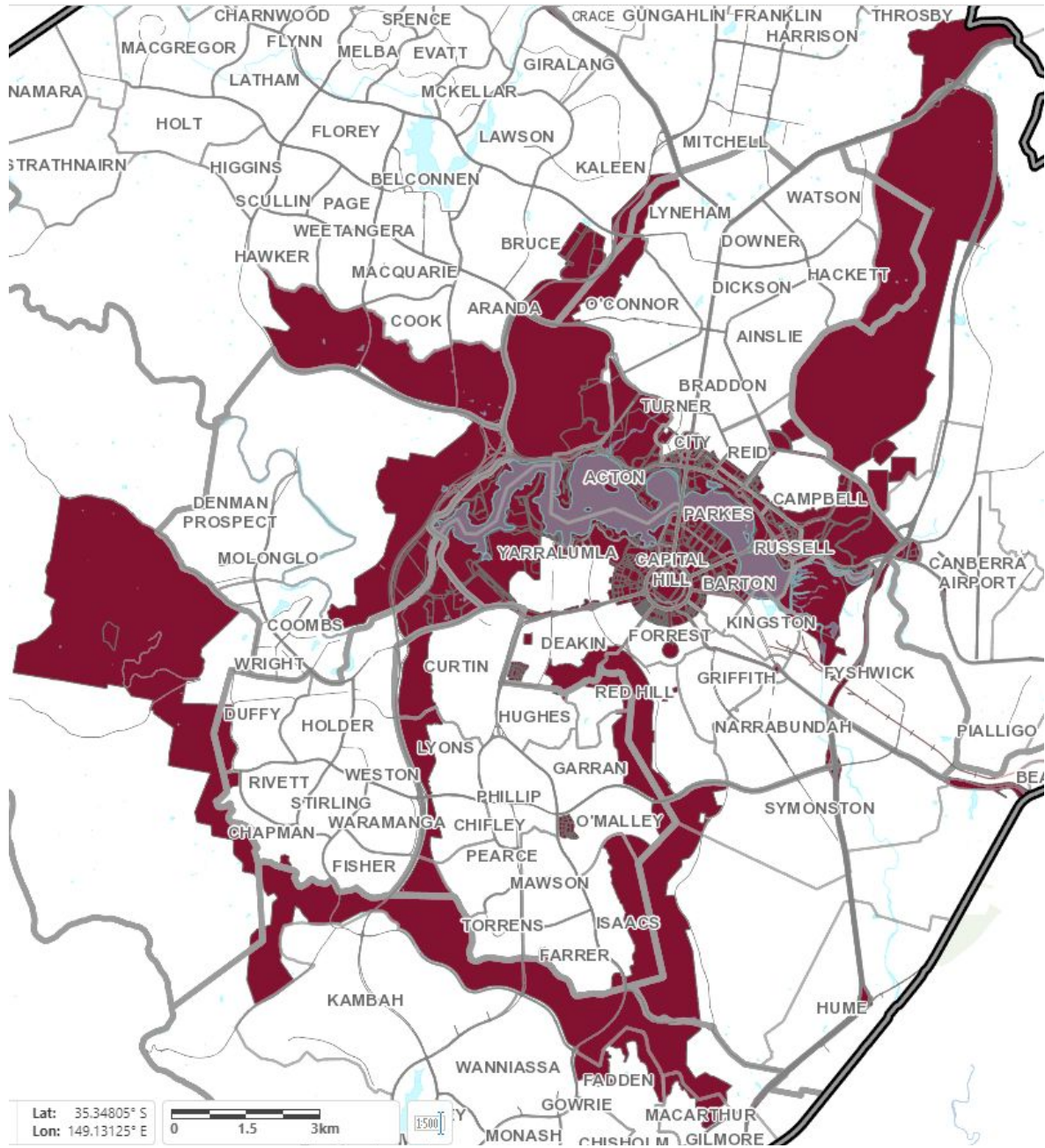
Sunday - 9am to 5pm

Limited service available outside of these hours.

To locate any other ACT Government directorate or agency please refer to the [ACT Government Directory](#).

The following is a basic overview of the how the land in the ACT is broken down into the different government departments.

Federal Land

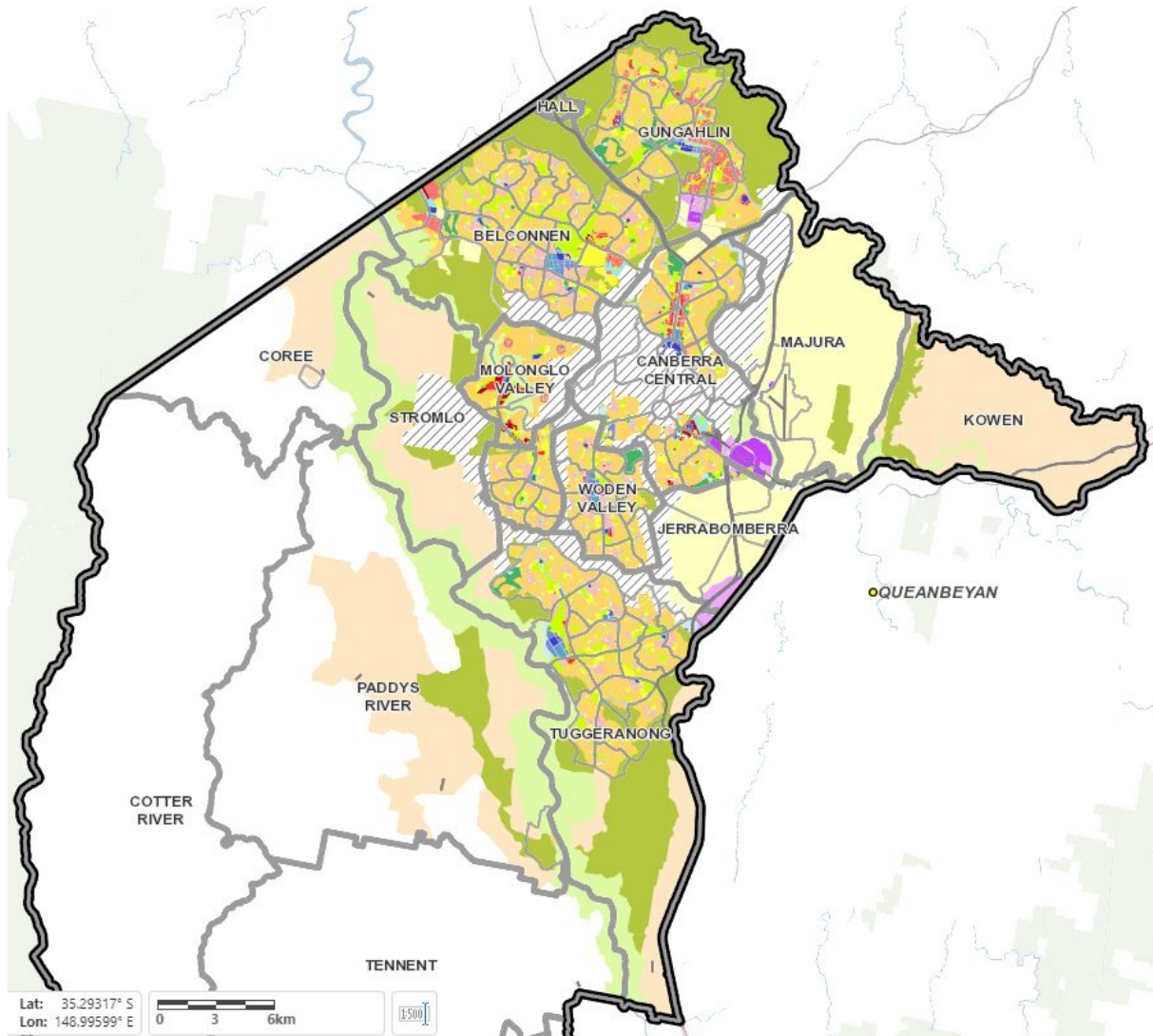


The coloured areas are Federal Land and are controlled by the National Capital Authority.

For more information see: <https://www.nca.gov.au/>

For an Interactive Map see: [Interactive Map](#)

ACT Land



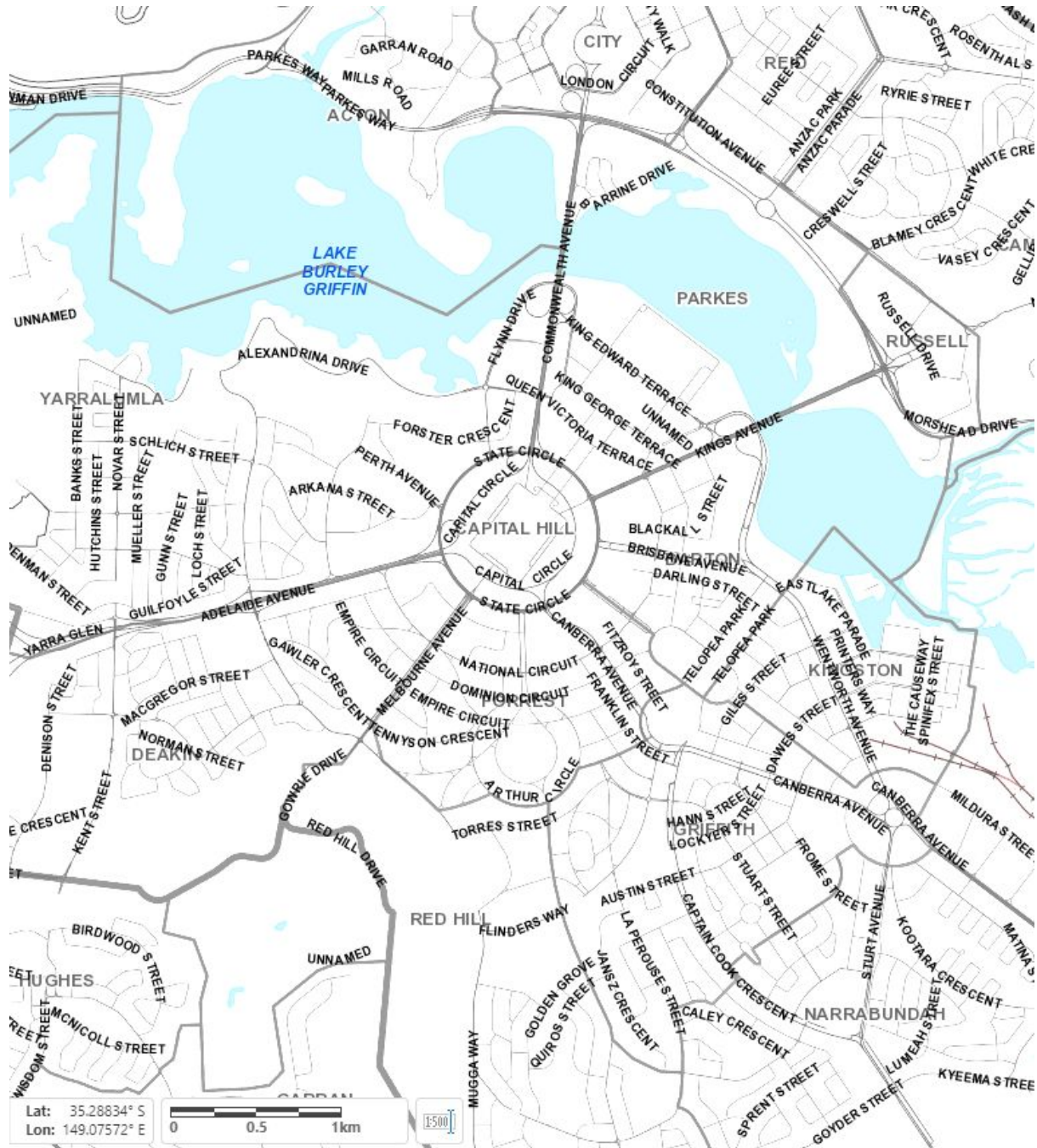
All other land that is not Federal, a Road/Footpath/Carpark or Private land is controlled by City Services (TCCS).

For an Interactive Map please choose ACT Government on the: [Interactive Map](#)

For more information see: http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/city-living/public_land_use

Some land such as school grounds, [sports grounds](#) and other venues such as the [National Arboretum](#), [Exhibition Park in Canberra](#), [Canberra Stadium](#) and [Manuka Oval](#) are managed by individual areas and should have enquiries directed to them in the first instance.

Roads



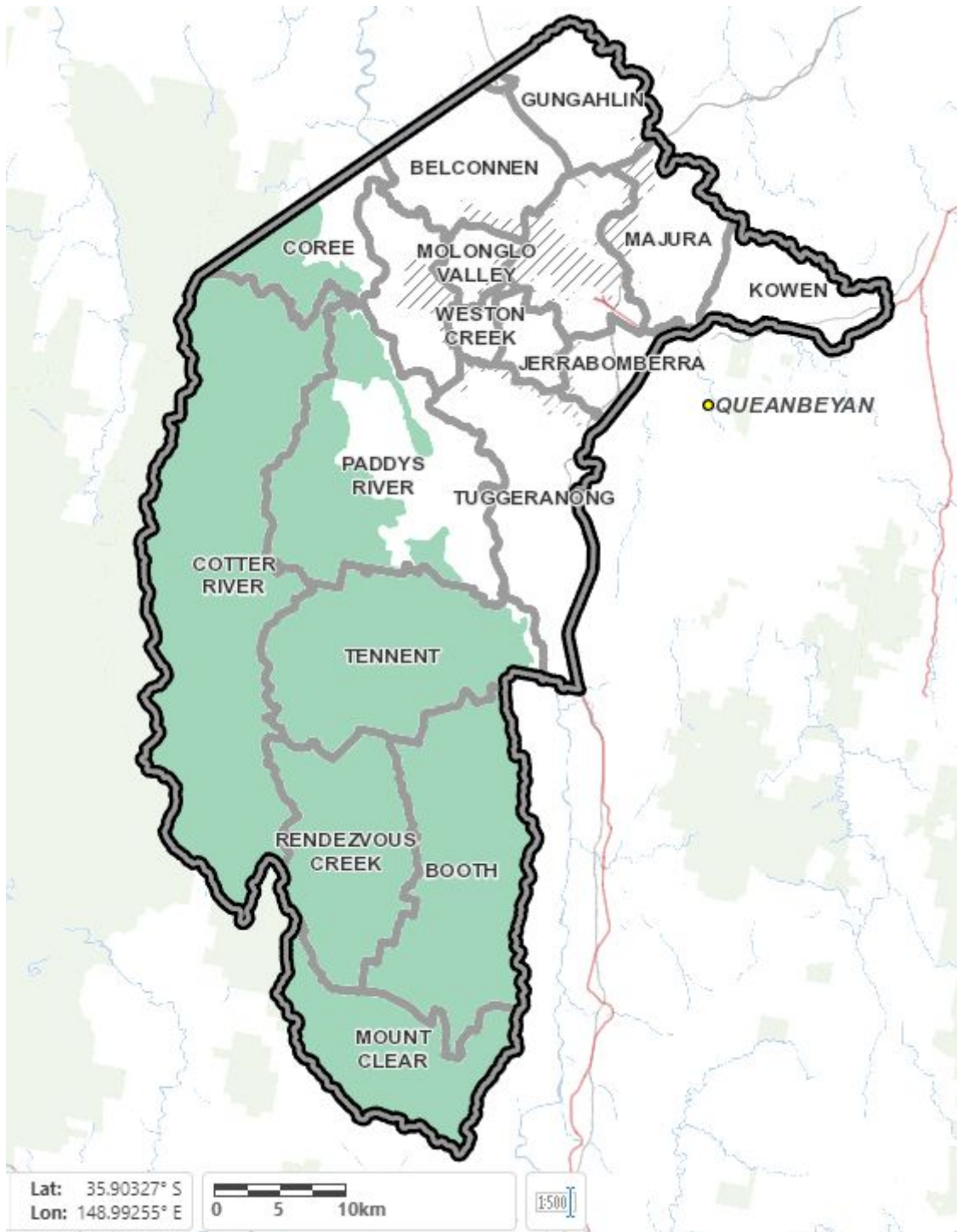
All roads and footpaths are controlled by Roads ACT. Roads ACT also manage the majority of free, metered or vouchered carpark spaces in the ACT.

A road or footpath includes 1.2 metres of the ground ranging out from the fixture in the ground.

For more information see: <http://www.tccs.act.gov.au/roads-paths>

Also see the Interactive Map and choose Roads from the Layers menu: [Interactive Map](#)

National Parks



The ACT has many beautiful National Parks.
For more information see: Environment.act.gov.au

Private Land

If you want to film on private land it is up to the discretion of the owner of that land. You must approach the owner and get written approval from them. Screen Canberra and the ACT Government cannot assist you with this.

Outside of the ACT

We have many great locations just outside our borders including the dry lake beds of [Lake George](#) and Lake Bathurst, Bungonia Gorge at [Bungonia National Park](#), [Carey's Limestone Cave](#) in Wee Jasper and the mines of [Captains Flat](#). These areas are controlled within the NSW Council system or by the [NSW Government](#).

3. Apply for Permission to use Public Land in the ACT

Contact Events ACT

As the ACT considers film as an event it is Events ACT that should be contacted for permission to film on Federal or ACT land, on a Road/Footpath/Carpark, or in a National Park. Events ACT has a single point of contact that will coordinate and apply for your permissions.

Website: <http://www.events.act.gov.au/>

Phone: 02 6205 0666

Email: events@act.gov.au

Provide Information on dates, locations and size.

You will need to provide maps, schedules and information about your production.

Remember to state where is your crew going to park, and where your Unit Base will reside.

Let them know the 'Impact' you will have on the public and neighbouring businesses and residents. This might be through obstruction, noise, light, temporary mess, simulated violence or police responses, use of fake firearms and anything else your script requires.

You will need Public Liability Insurance at least to be able to use any public land.

If Events ACT is unavailable

You can apply individually to each department and arrange your own access.

Federal Land - National Capital Authority

To film on any Federal Land read the guidelines and complete the Events Application Form.

[Click here to apply](#)

National Capital Authority,
Treasury Building, King Edward Terrace
Parkes ACT 2600

Phone: +61 (0)2 6271 2888

Fax: +61 (0)2 6273 4427

ACT Land - Transport Canberra and City Services

To film on any ACT Land fill out this form to apply to use any ACT land.

[Click here to apply](#)

Land Use Unit, City Services,
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

2 Elimatta Street,
REID, ACT 2612

Phone: (02) 6205 8794

Fax: (02) 6207 7133 - Land Use Unit

Email: publiclanduse@act.gov.au

Road, Footpath or Carpark - Roads ACT

To film on any, or within 1.2 metres of an ACT Road, Footpath or Carpark please contact Roads ACT:

Phone: 02 6207 6601

Email: slobodan.paunovic@act.gov.au

If you are going to obstruct any car or foot traffic, or parking space you will need a traffic management plan with an official TCP and professional traffic controllers to carry out the management. Companies like Care Traffic and Territory Traffic Engineering can help.

National Park - Environment

To film in any National Park in the ACT please read the guidelines and fill out the [online application form](#).

Private Land

Approach the owner of the land and ask or offer to pay them for the use of their land. The resident has every right to say no. If that happens you must look elsewhere for your location.

4. Wait for Approval

Price

Most applications are free. The use of government land is also free.

Timing

Applications should be submitted at least 4 weeks before your shoot.

For road closures or obstructions you are required to put a notice in the paper at least 1 week before hand.

5. Filmmaker Responsibilities

Notification to the Police

To minimise the possibility that the police will halt your production please contact the Australian Federal Police - ACT Policing to inform them of the locations of your shoot and any other information that will be relevant such as the use of fake firearms, stunts, traffic obstructions, simulated violence, etc. Speak to them first and send them your information about your shoot in writing.

<https://www.police.act.gov.au/connect-us>

131 444 or ACTCommunications@afp.gov.au

Notification to Residents

Once approved, if you are creating any impact at all on the surrounding area by way of noise, light, closures, street parking, simulated violence, fake police responses, use of fake firearms or just a lot of people at a single place and time, you must notify surrounding residents through letterbox drops and visible notifications in the affected area.

It is in your best interests to do this as close-by residents and businesses may complain or call the police and hold up your production.

Duty of Care

Filmmakers in the ACT are expected to:

- Have Public Liability insurance as a minimum
- Be considerate to the general public
- Not harm public property
- Make no significant impact on the land
- Leave an area as clean, or cleaner, than when you started shooting
- Maintain safe conditions for all cast, crew, nearby public, wildlife and flora.

Firearms

The ACT has stricter laws around the use of firearms than all other states and territories. You will need to seek approval from the Police to use any firearm in the ACT and you will need your insurance policy to cover firearms and pyrotechnics. A licensed armourer is almost essential to use firearms as part of your production.

For more information please contact the ACT Police:

131 444 or ACTCommunications@afp.gov.au

Drones

The use of drones in the ACT is restricted because of all the Federal land and the airport that is close to the city.

The best resources to figure out where you can fly a drone is the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. Their site on flying drones is comprehensive. [Please see the site here.](#)

They also offer a mobile app that tells you exactly where you can fly. [Download the app here.](#)

Resources

Vacated Government Buildings

If you are looking for an empty building to shoot in in Canberra, the ACT Property Group may be able to help you. They take care of all the public buildings in Canberra that are vacated. [For more information click here.](#)

Australian National University

The ANU holds some amazing locations that range from very old to very new. To film on the ANU campus it is best to contact ANU Marketing. [Click here for contact information.](#)

Canberra Airport

The Canberra Airport is one of the newest and least busiest in Australia. It is also privately owned and available for negotiated paid use for film productions. [Contact the airport here.](#)

Telstra Tower

Telstra Tower sits on Black Mountain and looks out over Canberra while also being a unique building in itself. [Contact Telstra Tower here.](#)