

Anindilyakwa Land Council (Facebook post 2nd April 2020)

As of Tuesday evening, 31 March 2020, all travel to and from the Groote Archipelago has been suspended for two weeks. We are in lock down until 14 April 2020 to ensure that no one in the Groote Archipelago has the Coronavirus.

During this shutdown we request that there is only essential movement between Alyangula and the Aboriginal communities, and that all residents implement social distancing requirements. Essential services will continue to operate during this period. Anyone travelling from Alyangula to an Aboriginal Community during this period will require an Essential Workers Community Access Permission by the ALC.

We encourage everyone to stay home during this shutdown period unless shopping for essential items, attending medical appointments, or exercising. Current Government restrictions limit gathers to two people, unless you are members form the same household. These restrictions are to be complied with on the Groote Archipelago.

When travel recommences on the 14th of April, all non-Traditional Owners travelling to the Groote Archipelago will be required to hold a Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit. Without this permit, you will not be allowed the enter the Groote Archipelago unless you have been granted an exemption from the ALC. Permits will only be granted to persons who have completed a 14-day quarantine period. Exemptions may be issued to Essential Service Workers on a case-by-case basis. Essential Service Providers will be issued with an Essential Workers Community Access Permission by the ALC, which those workers must produce upon entry into Aboriginal communities.

All non-Traditional Owners already in the Groote Archipelago are also required to apply for a permit. We encourage those persons to apply for their permit now. However, no permits will be issued by the Land Council until a 14-day quarantine period has been completed. For persons currently residing on the Groote Archipelago, this means Permits will be issued at the conclusion of the two-week shutdown period.

A new permit application must be submitted each time you leave and then wish to return to the Groote Archipelago. This means anyone who leaves the Groote Archipelago will be required to complete a further 14-day quarantine period before being re-issued with a permit.

This permit does not replace the Recreational Permits and anyone wishing to access the Recreation Areas must hold a valid Recreational Permit issued by the Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers. Persons accessing the Recreational Areas are requested not to enter Angurugu, Umbakumba or Satellite Communities to visit friends or to buy food, drinks or supplies. The newly resurfaced Angurugu back road is open for access to the Southern Recreational Areas, so please do not travel through the Angurugu community. Please remember that large group gatherings at recreation areas are not permitted, and social distancing should be maintained at all times.

Due to ever changing nature of this what is occurring please be aware that the Land Council will be required at times to make changes at short notice in consultation with other key stakeholders – apologies for any inconvenience this may cause to you or your family.

Visit our website for more information and to apply for your permit: <https://www.anindilyakwa.com.au/coronavirus>