



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **GROOTE ARCHIPELAGO TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading in Australia, the virus makes people sick. It can be dangerous, especially for our Elders or people who are already unwell.

The ALC's number one priority is to save lives by not letting coronavirus reach the Groote Archipelago. The ALC is working closely with GEMCO to achieve that.

Travelling to other towns and cities could increase the chance of you and your family getting sick. **Home is Safe. Fortress Groote.**

The Australian Government is restricting movement of people into remote communities, including the Groote Archipelago.

From 11:59pm Thursday 26 March 2020, anyone wishing to enter the Groote Archipelago will need to self-isolate for 14 days. There will be exceptions to this requirement for essential service providers. This requirement expires on 18 June 2020, but may be extended if considered necessary.

On top of this measure, the ALC has asked GEMCO to participate in a two-week cessation of travel to and from the Groote Archipelago. This means no one will be able to come in or out of the Groote Archipelago between COB **31 March 2020** and **14 April 2020**. Rare exceptions may be made in the case of emergencies, such as Careflight or Police Airwing.

After 14 April 2020, anyone coming to the Groote Archipelago must apply for a permit from the ALC.

Permits will only be given to persons who:

- (a) Have undertaken a 14-day isolation period on-island or off-island or satisfied a medical test that they do not have coronavirus;
- (b) Have not showed any symptoms of the coronavirus;
- (c) Have not been exposed to any coronavirus potential, or any person with one or more signs or symptoms of the coronavirus.

The ALC has released the attached COVID-19 Management Plan that outlines these measures in detail.



**Quotes attributable to Mark Hewitt, Chief Executive Officer ALC**

- *The ALC's primary focus at this time is keeping our Communities safe. The Groote Archipelago's greatest asset is its isolation. We are using that isolation to stop the spread of the virus to the Archipelago.*
- *By instigating a two-week cessation of travel and a carefully managed permit system moving forward, we can be confident that the virus will not spread to the Groote Archipelago.*
- *These measures will allow us to continue delivering our Community Support Program and Cultural Program safely in our Communities.*
- *The ALC's message to our Communities is simple: stay home, because home is safe.*

**Quotes attributable to Jo-Anne Scarini, Vice President Operations South32 GEMCO**

- *The ALC's temporary cessation of travel and permit requirements will contribute to the combined efforts to reduce the risks of COVID-19 on Groote Eylandt.*
- *GEMCO has implemented strong controls under its NT Government endorsed COVID-19 management plan that will enable us to continue operations while protecting our workforce and our communities.*
- *This includes strict separation of our NT and QLD based FIFO team members from the residents of Alyangula and Groote Eylandt's Indigenous communities.*

