



APPENDIX 2 – GROOTE ARCHIPELAGO SELF-QUARANTINE POLICY

A Objective

This policy will ensure the ongoing protection of residents of Groote Eylandt Archipelago by ensuring to the greatest extent possible that the Eylandt remains COVID-19 free.

B Context

On Saturday 21 March 2020, NT Chief Minister announced that all individuals entering the NT will be subject to a 14-day self-quarantine.

On Tuesday 24 March 2020, GEMCO agrees to support the ALC's 14-day cessation of travel to and from the Groote Archipelago for a period of 14 days to baseline Groote Eylandt as COVID-19 free.

On Friday 27 March 2020, a direction made under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* comes into effect that individuals wishing to enter remote Indigenous Communities will be subject to a 14-day self-quarantine.

On Tuesday 14 April 2020, flights to/from the Groote Archipelago recommence

A permit system has been implemented to support the ALC in managing individual seeking to access the Groote Archipelago. Only persons who have completed a 14-day quarantine period in accordance with this Groote Archipelago Self-Quarantine Policy will be granted a permit to enter the Groote Archipelago.

C Self-quarantine procedure

All residents of the Groote Archipelago should refrain from travel on and off the island unless absolutely necessary. Anyone leaving the Groote Archipelago must be made aware that they will be subject to a 14-day quarantine period before they can return.

Under the Biosecurity Determination, all persons seeking to enter the Groote Archipelago must have completed a 14-day quarantine period before entering. The ALC will assist all Groote Archipelago Traditional Owners seeking to return to the Groote Archipelago to complete this quarantine period prior to travel.

For Community members who do not have access to accommodation where they can self-quarantine prior to travelling to the Groote Archipelago, the Northern Territory Government will provide access to a facility where that quarantine can occur in a safe environment.

D On-island self-quarantine requirement

In some circumstances, it may be more appropriate for persons to self-quarantine on the Groote Archipelago. In these cases, the ALC will grant an exemption from the requirement to self-quarantine off-island prior to entering the Groote Archipelago. For such an exemption to be granted, the individual must present to the ALC a 'quarantine-plan' setting out:

- (a) Where they will be quarantine on-island; and
- (b) What measures they will put in place to ensure they do not come in contact with any Groote Archipelago residents during their quarantine period.

The ALC is looking to make facilities available on-island for people to safely complete this quarantine period, including:

- (a) Residential houses;
- (b) The Fishing Village at the Lodge;
- (c) Pole 7 Workers Camp (once built);



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- (d) Aged Care facility in Angurugu;
- (e) Purpose built, on-country facilities such as at Yenbakwa.

On arrival, any individual who is to self-quarantine on-island must proceed directly to the nominated quarantine location and remain under self-quarantine for the duration of the 14-day period. The individual will be delivered a self-quarantine pack which will include a thermometer, appropriate PPE and information. The individual will be expected to self-monitor temperature twice daily and if they start to show symptoms should contact the Medical Centre.

As outlined by the ALC direction notice, an individual in self-quarantine must

- Remain at the designated address at all times for 14 days
- Only leave the designated address for open air exercise provided 5m separation is maintained from all other persons
- Immediately notifying the ALC if coming within 1.5m of any other person

Where an individual is self-quarantining at a private residence, other members of that household will also be expected to self-quarantine.

The Alyangula Supermarket will process phone orders and delivery for individuals in self-quarantine in Alyangula.

The ALC/NT Police will conduct random checks on individuals in self-quarantine, with those found to be breaching self-quarantine may be removed from Groote Eylandt. The ALC is looking to employ a full-time biosecurity officer within the Rangers to assist in monitoring self-quarantine compliance.

Only persons who have completed a quarantine period to the ALC's satisfaction will be granted a permit allowing them to remain on the Groote Archipelago.

Flight restrictions

To avoid cross-contamination, flights must not carry any passenger who has not completed a 14-day quarantine period with passengers who have completed such a period.

Governance

A COVID-19 Quarantine Taskforce Committee will be established consisting of representatives for:

- ALC (Mark Hewitt and Tony Wurramarra)
- GEMCO (Jo-Anne Scarini and Liam Stower)
- Department of Chief Minister (Jim Rogers and Jesse Fatnowna)
- Department of Health (Marco Briceno)
- NT Police (Anthony Clarke)

This committee will meet regularly to consider the governance and enforcement of the controls agreed and will ensure all stakeholders are aligned on the outcomes.