

[from Tanya Woodcock, Groote Eylandt Police, 8th August 2021]

The Territory Deputy Incident Controller convened a meeting this evening, to discuss the impact upon Groote, after a taxi driver in Cairns tested positive to COVID.

#### **SITUATION**

**Cairns was declared a hotspot by the CHO at 12: 00 today, with the direction that anyone who's travelled from Groote to Cairns since 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 must isolate and be tested.**

The CDC reports that this is a LOW RISK situation. Testing of all arrivals from the hotspot is precautionary, with no information that any Groote resident has been in contact with a COVID-positive person in Cairns.

The direction to isolate means a traveller returning from Cairns since 29<sup>th</sup> July should stay at home and not go out or have any unnecessary contact with any other people, until they've returned a negative COVID test. Once they test negative there is no requirement to limit their movements or contacts.

A Rapid Assessment Team will be on Groote early tomorrow morning, and will ensure that all travellers are contacted and tested quickly. This is quite a task as there are approximately 600 mine workers (already in isolation) and approximately 85 other persons who arrived on island in the relevant period.

I will have support team to liaise with ALC, GEMCO and Community stakeholders to advise on process. There will be more communication tomorrow, particularly with regard to informing our general community of the operation, and until then please reassure your families/employees/clients that the actions underway are precautionary only at this time, with no 'lockdown' or other measures required.

Regards,

Senior Sergeant Tanya Woodcock

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