

Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE #13 – 25 May 2020

Hi All

There has been several important developments over the last week, please see below for an update of key COVID-19 information and how it relates to Groote Eylandt. Thanks to everyone for your continued efforts in keeping Groote Eylandt safe. Please be aware that this email advice is based on the most up-to-date information but the situation is rapidly changing. Further advice will be provided as required. Continue to check <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Territory Situation Update

There continues to be no known cases of COVID-19 in the Groote Archipelago, and importantly there are now zero active cases in the NT with all 30 cases now recovered. All cases were related to interstate and overseas travel and the NT managed to avoid community transmission. Over 7,200 tests have now been conducted in the NT.

Please continue to check <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/current-status> for up to date NT data.

Roadmap to a New Normal

Stage 2 of the Roadmap to a New Normal has rolled out across the NT, which saw further facilities on Groote re-open. Stage 3 is due to begin on Friday 5 June 2020. Please see full details here (<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/steps-to-restart/roadmap-new-normal>). Everyone should still maintain a 1.5m distance from people that are not from your household and continue to observe good hygiene practices such as regular handwashing and covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.

I will provide a further update of the status of businesses in relation to Stage 3 closer to 5 June 2020.

Please continue to check the GEMCO Community Facebook page for their latest updates, due to their FIFO segregation arrangements they are not re-opening some of their facilities at the same pace as the NTG roadmap stages.

It is important to note that there has been no date given for the lifting of interstate border restrictions and that this will likely be the last thing lifted. People entering the Northern Territory are still required to quarantine for two weeks at their own cost on arrival.

Biosecurity Act Determination to be lifted 5 June 2020

Over the weekend the Chief Minister confirmed that Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt had agreed to bring forward the lifting of the Biosecurity Act Determination from 18 June to 5 June 2020 to align with Stage 3 of the Roadmap to a New Normal.

This means that from 5 June 2020 there will no longer be a requirement for a two-week quarantine if travelling to a Designated Biosecurity Area from within the NT. For further information please see the attached email. The ALC has indicated that while there will not be a requirement to quarantine before travelling to Groote Eylandt from within the NT, they will retain the Groote Archipelago and Community Access Permit for all non-Traditional Owner residents and visitors. Further information will be distributed closer to 5 June 2020.

Please note that this has no effect on the interstate border restrictions, and anyone entering the NT is still required to quarantine at government selected accommodation at their own cost for the foreseeable future.

More Information

More information is available at coronavirus.nt.gov.au, www.secureNT.nt.gov.au, www.health.gov.au and anindilyakwasafe.net

This is a rapidly evolving situation and I thank you all for continuing to stay informed and thanks to each and every one of you for taking the necessary steps to keep the Groote Archipelago safe. As always, if you would like to discuss anything further please contact me on 0438 304 647.

Stay safe.

Jesse Fatnowna

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