

**From:** [Melissa Muller](#)

**To:**

Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE 10 – 22 April 2020

Thursday, 23 April 2020 9:44:00 AM

[image001.png](#)

[image002.png](#)

[image003.png](#)

[Flow Chart - Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit vs AREW - 21 April 2020 .pdf](#)

**Cc:**

**Subject:**

**Date:**

**Attachments:**

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Apologies to those on this distribution list who may have received advice #10 already.

**Please share this information with your staff and contacts. If you have had this email forwarded to you and would like to be added to the distribution list please email [melissa.muller@nt.gov.au](mailto:melissa.muller@nt.gov.au)**

### **Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE 10 – 22 April 2020**

Hi All

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 today is the 16<sup>th</sup> day since a new case was recorded in the Northern Territory. While this shows that our border controls and social distancing measures are working, it does not mean that we can step back from restrictions or relax. Recent situations in Tasmania and Singapore have shown how quickly things can change so the NTG asks that you continue to observe all required restrictions and stay at home if you can.

There are currently 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the NT from 3,731 tests that all relate to interstate or international travel. 15 of the 28 cases have recovered and the other 13 are in isolation and receiving treatment at Royal Darwin Hospital, Alice Springs Hospital or the new Howard Springs isolation facility (for cases that are not serious enough for hospitalisation). Promisingly, there are currently no cases in the NT requiring ICU treatment. Please continue to check <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/current-status> for up to date case, testing and recovery numbers in the NT.

#### ***Update on Restrictions, ANZAC Day, Territory Day and 2020 NT Election***

Physical distancing, group number and business trading restrictions are still currently in place. The Chief Minister has announced that he hopes to be in a position to announce a plan in May detailing how we can wind back certain restrictions, but please be aware that there is likely to be some form of physical distancing restrictions for at least the next six months. More information will be provided as it is available and any plan to relax restrictions will be based on Health advice.

Due to COVID-19, unfortunately public ANZAC day services around the country have been cancelled. The National service at the Australian War Memorial will be conducted without public attendance will be televised live, more information can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/updates/items/2020-04-17-anzac-day-2020-dawn-service-with-a-difference>. There are also numerous social media campaigns on other ways you and your family and pause and acknowledge the Day.

The Chief Minister has announced that in conjunction with industry the decision has been made to cancel 2020 Territory Day firework celebrations. This includes organised fireworks and the private sale of fireworks. More information will be released in the coming weeks on alternative ways to celebrate Territory Day.

The NT Election is due to be held on Saturday 22 August 2020. The current plan is that the Election goes ahead as scheduled, I will provide further information as it is available.

### **Travel Advice**

NTG, Commonwealth and ALC advice continues to be that travel should only be undertaken for essential or emergency purposes. Interstate travel is still subject to forced quarantine at the cost of the traveller.

Anyone leaving the Designated Biosecurity Areas (including Traditional Owners) will be required to serve a 14-day quarantine period before they will be allowed to travel the Groote Archipelago. The NTG should be releasing advice in the next few days around the proof you will need to supply to demonstrate that you have quarantined, and you must apply and be approved for a Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit or Approved Remote Essential Worker (AREW) status prior to travelling (see below).

TOs requiring assistance to complete a 14-day quarantine period in Darwin can contact Larrakia Nation on 1800 PATROL (1800 728 765) and non-Indigenous people can contact the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189 for assistance.

### **Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit and NT Approved Remote Essential Worker Process**

Every non-TO resident of the Groote Archipelago who was here for the Two-Week Travel Shutdown should have applied for a Groote Archipelago and Community Access Permit. If you have not yet applied for your permit please do so as soon as possible by visiting <https://www.anindilyakwa.com.au/coronavirus/groote-archipelago-community-access-information>. Once your permit has been granted, it authorises you to move around the Archipelago for work purposes, meaning that service providers who reside in Alyangula are able to re-commence providing services to the Aboriginal Communities.

Visitors to Groote will be required to either apply for a permit or seek an exemption under the NTG Approved Remote Essential Worker process. Please see the attached flowchart which breaks down the requirements for each process and contains all relevant links. Please note that if you have received a Groote Archipelago and Community Access Permit you DO NOT require an AREW.

NTG processes on this are being updated frequently, the AREW process will soon be moving online. I will provide further updates as they are available.

The ALC will soon have lanyards available for those needing to travel into the Aboriginal Communities for work purposes. Those with Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permits must display their permits on a GREEN lanyard, those with AREW status must display their AREW with a RED lanyard. This is to signal to community members those who have completed a two-week quarantine period (green) and those who have not (red).

If you have any questions regarding the Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit, please contact the ALC via [ALCpermits@alcnt.com.au](mailto:ALCpermits@alcnt.com.au) or 0436 930 960. If you have any questions

regarding the AREW process please contact myself or Melissa Muller (8987 0556 / [Melissa.muller@nt.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.muller@nt.gov.au))

### **GEMCO Update**

GEMCO FIFO operations are continuing under a strict Management Plan that has been approved by the NT Chief Health Officer.

Please subscribe to the GEMCO Community News and follow the GEMCO Community Facebook page for their latest updates <https://www.facebook.com/GEMCOcommunity/>

### **Schooling Update**

As you would be aware, School has resumed as normal across the NT for Term 2 this week. Please follow any advice from the Schools. Current Health advice is that Schools are safe and we will provide further updates as and if required

### **More Information**

More information is available at [coronavirus.nt.gov.au](http://coronavirus.nt.gov.au), [www.secureNT.nt.gov.au](http://www.secureNT.nt.gov.au), [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au) and [anindilyakwasafe.net](http://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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Regional Network, East Arnhem Region  
Department of the Chief Minister

**East Arnhem Covid 19 Team - [EastArnhem.Covid19@nt.gov.au](mailto:EastArnhem.Covid19@nt.gov.au)**

**Remote Travel Hotline 1800-518-189**

**Coronavirus Hotline 1800-020-080**

**NT Police Compliance Number 131-444**

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