

**From:** [Melissa Muller](#)  
**To:** Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE 8 – 9 April 2020  
Thursday, 9 April 2020 2:11:00 PM  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[Poster Work groups Covid-19 A4.pdf](#)  
[Stay at home this Easter.pdf](#)

**Cc:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**  
**Attachments:**

---

**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 8 – 9 April 2020**

Hi All

First of all, apologies for the delay between updates 7 and 8, it has been a big week working with the ALC, GECMO, NT Police, the Commonwealth Government and other stakeholders to put necessary controls in place for the end the Groote Archipelago Two-Week Travel Shutdown period. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation, particularly to the organisations that had to make alternative arrangements for your staff who would normally travel to and from the Archipelago, your assistance in keeping Groote safe for everyone is appreciated.

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. There are currently 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the NT from 2,999 tests. Two cases have recovered and the other 26 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). Please continue to check <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/> for the status of case numbers in the NT.

While the source of all cases relate to interstate or international travel, we have had our first intra-territory transmission where a person returned from international travel has passed COVID-19 on to two family members who have followed appropriate isolation measures. Health

advice is clear that there are no further risks to the community from these cases (other family members have tested negative) but it highlights the need for us to be vigilant at all times in following hygiene protocols, physical distancing measures and other controls that have been put in place.

Government advice is clear, please remain at home if you can. The NTG asks that you follow the Commonwealth directive around limiting groups to two people.

### ***Interstate Quarantine Laws***

All arrivals into the NT from interstate are now required to undertake a 14-day forced quarantine period at a designated hotel at their own cost. This cost is estimated to be approx. \$2,500.

There are exemptions available for essential workers and medical and compassionate grounds, for more information please see <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/border-controls>

### ***Two-Week Groote Archipelago Travel Shutdown (C.O.B. 31 March 2020 – 6am 14 April 2020)***

The Travel Shutdown concludes at 6am on Tuesday 14 April 2020. This DOES NOT mean that government advice regarding travel has changed, the safest place for all Territorians is their home community and you should only travel if it is absolutely essential. If you leave the Groote Archipelago, under the *Biosecurity Act* Determination you will be required to serve a 14-day isolation period before you can be cleared to return.

At the conclusion of the Shutdown we can be reasonably confident that there are no cases on COVID-19 in the Groote Archipelago. The ALC has released advice regarding arrangements after the Shutdown, I will issue update #9 later today detailing this advice.

### ***Groote Archipelago and Community Access Permit***

Anyone who has been on Groote during the Shutdown will satisfy the 14-day isolation requirement of the ALC Groote Archipelago and Community Access Permit, which all non-Traditional Owner residents must apply for. 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, meaning that service providers who reside in Alyangula are able to re-commence providing services to the Aboriginal Communities from 6am Tuesday 14 April.

Visitors to Groote will be required to either apply for a permit or seek an exemption under the NTG Approved Remote Essential Worker process. Further details will be contained in update #9 to be issued later today.

If you have any questions regarding the permit process, please contact the ALC via [ALCpermits@alcnt.com.au](mailto:ALCpermits@alcnt.com.au) or 0436 930 960.

### ***GEMCO Update***

GEMCO FIFO workers will continue to be managed under the GEMCO Pandemic Management Plan. This Plan has been approved by the NT Chief Health Officer and contains strict controls on travel and where FIFO workers can move around Groote Eylandt. GEMCO workers will be

wearing wristbands for identification purposes, Black for Residential and Green (Darwin) and Blue (Cairns) for FIFO (see attached poster).

Please be mindful that FIFO workers are subject to very stringent controls and that we should all continue to be kind to each other during this difficult time.

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***

Next week is School Holidays but yesterday the Minister for Education issued advice to NT Education Staff with three key messages:

- Education is compulsory in Term 2
- Education delivery in Term 2 will be determined by the School and tailored to the circumstances of students
- Decisions regarding the response to COVID-19 in the schooling sector will continue to be informed by National Cabinet and NT Health

This means that students are expected to attend Groote Schools for Term 2. Please follow any advice from your children's School. The situation will continue to be monitored and we will update you as soon as possible.

### ***Easter Weekend, Fishing and Rec Areas***

The NT Government issued advice on 7 April 2020 urging Territorians to remain at home this Easter (see attached advice). Obviously travel off the Archipelago is restricted at the moment but please heed this advice on Groote as well. You should only celebrate Easter with those that you live with and please remember to observe good hygiene and physical distancing practices. The Chief Minister has confirmed that the Easter Bunny has received a travel exemption.

Recreation Areas are still able to be accessed with a valid Recreation Permit. Please continue to check for individual closures before heading out and be mindful to restrict your group size to reflect social gathering advice.

While fishing is allowed under current regulations, further clarifications were issued this week:

- Fishing alone is allowed
- Fishing with someone who lives with you is allowed
- Please maintain physical distancing
- DO NOT congregate with other land based anglers
- DO NOT get in a boat with people you do not live with
- DO NOT go fishing if you are sick or under quarantine

Fishing is being monitored all around the NT, and if we do not follow the rules it is likely that the privilege will be taken away from us.

### ***More Information***

More information is available at [coronavirus.nt.gov.au](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au), [www.secureNT.nt.gov.au](https://www.secureNT.nt.gov.au), [www.health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au) and [anindilyakwasafe.net](https://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.

Have a safe and Happy Easter with your families.

**Jesse Fatnowna**

Regional Director – Groote Eylandt  
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**

m. 0438 304 647

[jesse.fatnowna@nt.gov.au](mailto:jesse.fatnowna@nt.gov.au)

Lot 548, Oval Road, Angurugu NT 0822

PO Box 306, Alyangula NT 0885



[boundlesspossible.com.au](http://boundlesspossible.com.au)



Use or transmittal of the information in this email other than for authorised NT Government business purposes may constitute misconduct under the NT Public Sector Code of Conduct and could potentially be an offence under the NT Criminal Code. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this message or any attachments is unauthorised. If you have received this document in error, please advise the sender. No representation is given that attached files are free from viruses or other defects. Scanning for viruses is recommended.