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Subject: Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE 9 – 9 April 2020 - NEW PERMIT AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
Attachments: 2020.04.09 - Letter to ORICs.pdf; Appendix 1 - Conditions of Entry to the Groote Archipelago.pdf; Appendix 2 - Groote Archipelago Self-Quarantine Policy.pdf; ALC Essential Worker Travel Declaration [1].pdf; approved-remote-essential-worker-application.pdf; COVID-19_NT Designated Area Compliance Form_V4.pdf

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Groote Archipelago COVID-19 ADVICE 9 – 9 April 2020 – NEW PERMIT AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Hi All

The Anindilyakwa Land Council has released further information about arrangements at the conclusion of the Two-Week Travel Shutdown. Please find attached:

- Letter to ORICs from the ALC CEO explaining the new arrangements
- Appendix 1 – Conditions of Entry to the Groote Archipelago (details the requirements/paperwork required to travel to Groote)
- Appendix 2 – Groote Archipelago Self Quarantine Policy

I have tried to summarise the key information below. Please note ALC and NTG websites will be updated early next week to reflect the new arrangements. We are also working on a range of flowcharts/fact sheets to simplify the information.

ALC Permit System – Residents Who Completed Two-Week Travel Shutdown

All non-Traditional Owner residents who have been on the Groote Archipelago during the Two-Week Travel Shutdown need to apply for the Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit here:

<https://www.anindilyakwa.com.au/coronavirus/groote-archipelago-community-access-information> . Once you have received your permit you are able to move around the Groote Archipelago and organisations with staff based in Alyangula can begin to provide services to the Aboriginal Communities again. Please be aware that if you leave the Groote Archipelago/East Arnhem Designated Area your permit will be cancelled and you will need to re-apply.

ALC Permit System - Travelling to Groote

Government and ALC advice is clear, you should only travel off Groote in the case of emergencies. Groote is currently one of the safest places in the country due to its isolation. The Groote Archipelago is a Designated Area under the *Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth)*. This means that any new arrival (including returning residents) must:

- Have completed a 14-day quarantine period;
- Not have showed any symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days; and
- Not have been exposed to any COVID-19 potential, or any persons with one or more signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days.

New arrivals (including returning residents) must apply for a Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit:

<https://www.anindilyakwa.com.au/coronavirus/groote-archipelago-community-access-information> and complete a Designated Area Compliance Form which will be collected by NT Police on arrival in Groote.

The ALC is organising Airnorth to check that you have the relevant paperwork before you will be allowed to board a flight from Darwin. If you attempt to board a flight without the correct paperwork you are potentially in breach of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* which carries penalties up to 5 years imprisonment and a \$63k fine.

If you are unable to organise your own self-isolation in Darwin, Anindilyakwa or other Aboriginal people 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.

Once you have an approved ALC Permit and completed a Designated Area Compliance Form you will be able to travel to Groote and move about the Archipelago.

In rare cases and certain circumstances, the ALC may approve quarantine on Groote rather than before travel. Appendix 2 contains requirements that would need to be observed.

Approved Remote Essential Workers

If you can successfully apply for and receive a Groote Archipelago & Community Access Permit there is no need to apply for the NT Government Approved Remote Essential Worker (AREW) permit to travel to the Groote Archipelago.

The AREW process is only required if you are seeking an exemption from the requirement to isolate for 14-days prior to travel due to the urgent nature of your essential work. In order to receive an AREW exemption you will need to provide the following:

- Completed ALC Essential Worker Travel Declaration and have it endorsed/signed by the ALC;
- Complete an AREW Application and have it approved by an NTG delegate. This is a centralised process across the NTG, and must be sent to remote.travel@nt.gov.au

If you are approved you will also be required to present a Designated Area Compliance Form to NT Police on arrival on Groote. AREW workers will be subject to similar restrictions on movement around Groote as GEMCO FIFO workers.

GEMCO FIFO Workers

GEMCO FIFO workers hold an exemption under GEMCO's Pandemic Management Plan, which has been approved by the Chief Health Officer and contains strict controls around their travel and restrictions on movement within Groote.

More Information

As above, NTG and ALC websites will be updated to reflect these new arrangements, I will circulate links once this is complete. Until then, please submit any ALC queries to ALCpermits@alcnt.com.au / 0436 930 960. For advice on the AREW process please contact the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189 or contact me via email or mobile.

Regards

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

Remote Travel Hotline 1800-518-189

Coronavirus Hotline 1800-020-080

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