

Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TS LDMG) is on ALERT STATUS - GLOBAL COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

Yesterday afternoon (17/03/20), members of the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TS LDMG) held an extraordinary meeting specifically in response to the global COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Pandemic. All key regional agencies were represented in this forum including Mayors from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), Torres Shire Council (TSC), Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), and Queensland Health as the lead agency for this pandemic.

Key resolutions were moved during this meeting by the LDMG:

1. Request that State and Federal Govt impose a non-essential travel ban to our region on their staff, to further protect our vulnerable population and communities.
2. Seek an urgent decision from the Commonwealth for ABSTUDY for the early return of Boarding School students to their home communities. LDMG's will work with Queensland Health advice to manage any quarantining required for this group.
3. LDMG also supports early return of Boarding School Students to their families in the region in general.

The following key regional mitigation activities apply:



Non-Essential Travel:

All non-essential travel is not permitted to the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula jurisdictional areas.



Border Movements Under the Torres Strait Treaty:

A ban on cross-border travel for traditional purposes under the Torres Strait Treaty is in place until further notice.



International Ship Visits:

There will be no visitations by cruise ships to Thursday Island until further notice.



Horn Island Airport:

The airport and associated facilities remain operational.

Key Information:

- Queensland Health is urging anyone who has been overseas in the last 14 days and has a fever or any respiratory symptoms to see a doctor immediately. Please call ahead to your local medical centre and let them know your symptoms and travel history, this will help them prepare for your arrival.
- Queenslanders can do their part by practicing good hygiene and staying home if you're sick. Washing your hands properly and often is the gold standard of health advice that can help prevent viruses from entering your body.
- Anyone with concerns can call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or find up-to-date reliable information on the Queensland Health website at www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus

Media Enquires:

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