



THE TORRES STRAIT LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE

2nd April 2020

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

The paramount focus of the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) remains prevention of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) from entering the region. This includes working within the new Federal and State biosecurity instruments and guidelines.

In this light, the TSLDMG held an extraordinary meeting earlier today (02/04/20), with representatives from all key regional agencies and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), Torres Shire Council (TSC), and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), to enact further regional travel restrictions and community protection measures.

Throughout the month of March and via the TSLDMG process, Officers from both the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and the Torres Shire Council (TSC), have been working tirelessly with community members and families to bring loved ones, and in particular boarding students' home. Officers have had to work swiftly to ensure local compliance of the new restriction measures, whilst working with and accommodating families that have been, and potentially could be, affected by restriction changes.

The following resolutions were made, *and moved*, at the LDMG's extraordinary meeting earlier today (02/04/20):

Resolution One:

That the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) resolves to prohibit the following travel within the Torres Strait Region:

- a. all travel between all outer islands;
- b. all travel between all outer islands and inner islands;
- c. all travel between the Torres Strait Region and Northern Peninsula Area; *however*,
- d. travel is permitted between the inner islands around Thursday Island.

This resolution comes into effect from 11:59pm Monday 06/04/2020 until Wednesday 06/05/2020, except for essential activities as defined under the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020.

Resolution Two:

The prohibition on travel from the inner islands to the outer islands does not apply to anyone who has travelled into the region before 11:59pm Monday 06/04/2020 and successfully undertaken the

mandatory 14-day isolation period on Thursday Island, immediately before travelling to the outer islands.

Resolution Three:

That the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) resolves to transfer the position of Chairperson from Mayor Gela of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council to Mayor Malone of the Torres Shire Council.

Resolution Four:

That the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) resolves to escalate to the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG), the supply issues identified by Community Enterprise Queensland (CEQ) which identified the essential service provision of food supplies to all Indigenous communities within the Torres and Cape region to have priority supply arrangements, due to the supply chain delivery cycles all remote Indigenous communities suffer with resupply.

Resolution Five:

That the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) requests the District Disaster Coordinator to authorise Torres Strait Island Regional Council Environmental Health Workers to exercise declared disaster powers under the Disaster Management Act 2003 (QLD) within the Torres Strait Island Regional Council local government area.

Resolution Six:

That the Torres Strait Local Disaster Management Group (TSLDMG) resolves to escalate to the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) and the Office of the Deputy Premier, the need to streamline assistance packages for Small to Medium Enterprises within the Torres Strait Region.

Recommended Health Information Sources:

Queensland Health

- Call 13 HEALTH (13 432584) or visit: www.health.qld.gov.au/coronavirus

Australian Department of Health

- Visit: www.health.gov.au
- National Coronavirus Helpline - Call 1800 020 080 (Available 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week)

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service

- Visit: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/torres-cape>

- ENDS -

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