

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

TIWI LAND COUNCIL and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TOWNSHIP LEASING

LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS OF ENTRY TO THE TIWI ISLANDS

The Restrictions of Entry for the Tiwi Islands have been lifted from 5 June 2020.

On 18 March 2020, the Chief Executive Officer of the Tiwi Land Council, Mr Andrew Tipungwuti, determined that, in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus threat, all existing non-essential permits to the land and seas within the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust region were revoked and no new non-essential permits would be granted until further notice.

In addition, the Executive Director of Township Leasing, Ms Pennie Weedon, issued Public Health Determinations under subsection 70F(12) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and the Township leases she holds restricting entry to the following remote Indigenous communities on the Tiwi Islands:

Wurrumiyanga (Nguui) on Bathurst Island
Wurankuwu (Ranku) on Bathurst Island
Milikapiti (Snake Bay) on Melville Island
Pirlangimpi (Garden Point) on Melville Island

On 5 June 2020, in line with the Commonwealth Government's decision to lift the designated Biosecurity areas in the Northern Territory, the Executive Director of Township Leasing lifted the restrictions of entry into Wurrumiyanga, Wurankuwu, Milikapiti, and Pirlangimpi.

The Tiwi Land Council has also decided to recommence granting permits. Persons wanting to access Aboriginal Land in the Tiwi Islands outside of the listed townships, and who do not meet the requirements of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, must apply for a permit from the Tiwi Land Council.

Contacts

Tiwi Land Council

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NIAA Media Contact

media@niaa.gov.au

niaa.gov.au/news-centre

www.indigenous.gov.au/news-and-media

For current information about COVID-19 Coronavirus:

Coronavirus Health Information Line

1800 020 080

Call for information on Coronavirus COVID-19. Operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NT Remote Travel Hotline

1800 518 189

For information regarding essential travel to remote communities.

NT Mass Gathering Hotline

1800 518 055

For information to assess clinical risk of large gatherings and events.

Australian Government Department of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

Latest news, alerts and situation status within Australia. Protection advice and fact sheets.

SecureNT

<https://securent.nt.gov.au/>

Latest news, alerts, situation status and advice relevant to the Northern Territory. Health message recordings in Aboriginal languages.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/>

Public advice for personal and organisational protection, global situation updates.