



NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

Northern Land Council backs NT Government's call to cancel non-essential trips to remote Aboriginal communities

12 March 2020

The Northern Land Council's Executive Council met today with officials from the Northern Territory Department of Health and the Danila Dilba Health Service's CEO Ms Olga Havnen to examine strategies and information focused on protecting Aboriginal communities in the NLC's region from the risk of coronavirus.

The NLC supports the NT Government's call to cancel all non-essential trips to remote communities as it tries to prevent the spread of coronavirus to vulnerable populations and has taken steps to ensure that all NLC employees who have recently travelled overseas do not travel to remote communities unless they have been cleared to do so.

"We agree with the NT Government's decision to ask all workers to cancel their trips if they are not essential and the same goes for NLC staff," said NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour.

Ms Scrymgour will meet with NT Tourism tomorrow (March 13) to discuss how tourism operators can minimise their potential impact on remote communities.

NLC chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said the NLC is working closely with the NT Government and health service providers to ensure remote communities in the Top End of the Northern Territory are resourced and provided with appropriate information.

"We want people to really think about their need to visit remote communities. Especially if they have returned from an at risk country they must not travel to Aboriginal communities and must take every precaution."

ENDS

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