



NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

NLC releases COVID-19 video series in 18 Aboriginal languages

31 March 2020

The Northern Land Council has released the first four of 18 videos in Northern Territory Aboriginal languages. The videos provide important information about the Coronavirus pandemic for Aboriginal Territorians.

The videos are in the following Top End and central Australian languages: Anindilyakwa; Alyawarr; Anmatyerr; Western Arrarnta; Westside Kriol; Kunwinjku; Maung; Pintupi; Gurindji; Central Arrernte; Warumungu; Modern Tiwi; Pitjantjatjara; Burarra; Eastside Kriol; Murrinh-Patha; Warlpiri; and Yolngu Matha.

NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour praised the efforts of the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS); “The AIS has provided a fantastic service in helping us to get this information out to our mob. Their team of highly qualified interpreters has been invaluable in producing these videos”.

Tiwi actor Robbie Collins appears in the videos, supported by a cast of Darwin locals.

“It is also great to see my fellow Tiwi Islander Robbie Collins lend his skills to this project,” said Ms Scrymgour.

NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said; “There’s a lot of good information being provided by the Aboriginal health service providers, the NT Government, and peak bodies like Congress in Alice Springs and AMSANT in Darwin, but it’s also important to get the information to our mob in their own language”.

Mr Bush-Blanasi thanked the NT Government for their support, along with the three other NT Land Councils - Central, Anindilyakwa and Tiwi.

“It’s important we work together to get the message out that the best place for our mob is at home on country, and for them to look after themselves and their families.”

In recent days NLC staff have taken hundreds of phone calls from people wanting to access Aboriginal communities and land.

“I can’t say this strongly enough – if you don’t provide an essential service then you shouldn’t be trying to get out to Aboriginal communities,” said Mr Bush-Blanasi.

Notes:

- Four videos are available on the Northern Land Council’s YouTube page. The remainder will be uploaded over the coming days.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NorthernLandCouncil/>
- All videos have been optimised for broadcast. Please contact media@nlc.org.au for access to high-resolution video files.