



Date Issued 3 January 2022

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

TIWI LAND COUNCIL and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TOWNSHIP LEASING

RESTRICTION OF ENTRY TO THE TIWI ISLANDS

A Restriction of Entry has been issued and will come into effect from **6 pm on 3 January 2022** and will remain in place until further notice for the remote Indigenous communities on the Tiwi Islands:

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

Until further notice, any person who is NOT a resident or personnel required to deliver essential or emergency service is not permitted to enter these Townships.

The Restriction of Entry includes the landing of all regular passenger transport (RPT) aircraft at airport terminals and passenger boats docking at ferry/pontoon facilities.

Exemptions only apply to personnel required to enter the community to deliver emergency and essential services.

This Restriction of Entry has been issued by the Executive Director of Township Leasing, Ms Pennie Talbot, in response to the ongoing risk to public health currently posed by the potential spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

At the direction of the Tiwi Land Council, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Tipungwuti, has also declared the closure of all remaining land and seas within the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust in response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus threat.

The decision by the Executive Director of Township Leasing to restrict access to Wurrumiyanga, Wurankuwu, Milikapiti and Pirlangimpi has been requested by the Traditional Owners who are concerned about protecting their elders and others who are vulnerable due to health conditions, and is made with the agreement of the Tiwi Land Council and the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust.

This is also a determination under Subsection 70F(12) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* imposing temporary restrictions on the entry and remaining on the common areas of these Townships for the purpose of protecting public health.

The closure of all areas across Bathurst and Melville Islands by the Tiwi Land Council includes public access to homelands and the Tiwi College at Pickataramoor.

Tiwi families are strongly advised to restrict their travel outside of the Tiwi Islands during this time.

All persons are also reminded to comply with all current Northern Territory Chief Health Officer Directions. This Restriction of Entry is in addition to and does not replace any of the Northern Territory Chief Health Officer's (CHO) directions currently in place. The list of CHO directions can be found on the [NT Government's Coronavirus webpage](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/cho-directions) (coronavirus.nt.gov.au/cho-directions). The webpage also includes a [list of exclusion zones for travel from interstate](#) and advice in relation to [business and work](#) (including a list of [essential workers](#) and [vaccination requirements](#)).

It is expected that all emergency and essential service agencies will ensure Commonwealth and Northern Territory public health advice is followed and that all agency personnel currently operating on the Tiwi Islands adhere to official protocols in order to protect the health of community members.

Contacts

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Office of Township Leasing

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

For current information about COVID-19 Coronavirus:

Coronavirus Health Information Line

1800 490 484

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

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.