Cairns District Disaster Management Group

DESIGNATED BIOSECURITY AREA ENTRY PROTOCOL

Remote Communities (Designated Areas) – Biosecurity Determination

Version 3

Current as of 24 April 2020
1. Purpose

To provide a sustainable whole-of-government response to protecting the health of vulnerable people in Remote Communities by restricting non-essential travel without specific approval.

Travel restrictions to remote and discrete Indigenous communities came into effect as of midnight Thursday 26 March 2020 under s477 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth). The travel restrictions are part of a national approach set out in Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020 (Cth), as defined in the Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld), agreed by National Cabinet comprising the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers to protect residents in discrete communities from the potential harms of COVID-19.

This document is to provide guidance to Local Disaster Management Groups (LDMGs) on the application processes for gaining entry to a Designated Biosecurity Area (DBA).

2. Introduction

On 29 January 2020, the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services declared a public health emergency in relation to coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The Public Health Act 2005 (s362B) provides the Chief Health Officer (CHO) with power to give directions to assist in containing, or responding to, the spread of COVID-19 within the community.

Border Restrictions Direction No. 4 (the Direction) was issued by the Chief Health Officer in accordance with powers arising from the declared public health emergency and is effective from 10 April 2020.

Additionally, travel restrictions to remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities came into effect as of midnight Thursday 26 March 2020 under s477 of the Biosecurity Act 2015 (Cth).

Entry into a Designated Area

Designated areas/communities under the Biosecurity Act include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aurukun</th>
<th>Lockhart River</th>
<th>Torres Strait Island</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burke</td>
<td>Mapoon</td>
<td>Torres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherbourg</td>
<td>Mornington Island</td>
<td>Weipa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>Napranum</td>
<td>Woorabinda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doomadgee</td>
<td>Northern Peninsula Area</td>
<td>Wujal Wujal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope Vale</td>
<td>Palm Island</td>
<td>Yarrabah</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kowanyama</td>
<td>Pormpuraaw</td>
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</table>
Persons are prohibited from entering a Designated Biosecurity Area (DBA) unless certain conditions apply. All individuals will be screened prior to entering the declared area. This will occur at vehicle check points (VCP), and airports.

There are four categories of entry:

1. A person who meets the entry criteria AND who has been isolated from the public (self isolated in an approved facility) for 14 days prior to entry (see “low risk of transmission”) – “Returning Residents” (Refer to Appendix A).
2. A person who meets the entry criteria AND who is engaging in or providing an essential activity – “Essential Service” (Refer to Appendix B).
3. A person meets the exemption criteria AND has the permission from a LDMG Chair under advice from the HBO – “Exemption” (Refer to Appendix C).
4. A person who meets the entry criteria AND is “In Transit” (Refer to appendix D).

Heath Screening Questions (Mandatory)

A person who attends a VCP or airport with the purpose to enter a DBA will be asked the following questions:

1. Are you experiencing any fever or chills?
2. Are you experiencing any respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat)?
3. Have you travelled interstate or overseas in the past 14 days?
4. Have you been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?

If a person answers YES to any of these questions, entry to the DBA is refused and the individual is directed to contact 13HEALTH.

3. Process for Entering a Designated Biosecurity Area

The following protocols outline the approved process for the four categories of entry into a DBA. The following information also includes the documentation required to be presented for entry at the VCPs and Airports.

Flow charts provide a step by step guide for each entry purpose are attached.
APPENDIX A

RETURNING RESIDENTS

Process:

1. A non-exempt individual makes a request to their respective LDMG Chair for referral to the DDMG guests in Supported 14-day Quarantine returning to Designated Biosecurity Area (DBA) - PACIFIC HOTEL CAIRNS. In special circumstances other accommodation configurations not catered for at Pacific Hotel will be considered.

2. Requests are forwarded to Cairns DDCC – cairnsDDCC.covid.19inquiries@police.qld.gov.au

3. Cairns DDCC will then contact other Government agencies for them to notify approved individuals and coordinate arrangements for their placement in the Designated Self-Isolation Facility for 14 days self-isolation.

4. At the conclusion of the self-isolation period, Queensland Health initiates health screening and a Certificate of Self-Isolation is issued.

5. A sterile corridor is agreed for the approved individual to travel to airport / VCP and enter the DBA.

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

a. Individual Identification (including Driver’s Licence / Passport / proof of identity)

b. Self-Isolation Certificate (see below)

c. SI-001 signed by LDMG Chair (see below)
APPENDIX B

ESSENTIAL SERVICE

Process:

1. Essential workers complete the online, “Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass” via the website [www.qld.gov.au/border-pass](http://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass) - **Essential Service Pass**.


Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

a. Individual Identification (including Driver’s Licence / Passport / proof of identity)

b. Completed RMP (see below)

c. Online Border Pass

d. Workplace Identification or Letter of Employment
APPENDIX C

EXEMPTION

Process:

1. Applicants make application to LDMG (Form SI-004) Chair for approval to enter relevant community.
2. If approved, LDMG chair will forward to the Far North Queensland Human Biosecurity Officer (HBO) for ADVICE.
3. LDMG chair after receiving the HBO advice then determines if the applicant is approved. The applicant is then advised by LDMG to complete the online “Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass” via the website [www.qld.gov.au/border-pass - Exemption Pass]

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

a. Individual Identification (including Driver’s Licence / Passport / proof of identity)
b. SI-004 Signed by LDMG and HBO (see below)
c. Border Pass
APPENDIX D

IN TRANSIT

Travelling through the DBA to a non-DBA – non-stop without contact to persons within the DBA

Process:

1. Applicant completes the online process, “Travelling to or through remote communities entry pass” via the website www.qld.gov.au/border-pass - In Transit Pass

2. Applicant attends the Vehicle Check Point / Airport and is questioned by officers as to the validity of the travel and if they can comply with the conditions of travelling through the Biosecurity area non-stop and without contact.

Documentation required for presentation at VCP / Airport:

a. Individual Identification (including Driver’s Licence / Passport / proof of identity)

b. Border Pass
FLOW CHARTS

PROCESS FOR ENTRY INTO 14 DAY SELF ISOLATION FACILITY

Request for entry made to LEMG chair [Form SI-001] for consideration and referral. Referred applicants are forwarded to DDMG.

DDMG forward to Queensland Health, CPS and Public Housing, DATSIP Advised.

Applicant signs SI-002 and begins isolation period at authorised facility.

14 day isolation is completed and certificate of isolation provided by facility.

14 day isolation is completed and certificate of isolation provided by facility.

Applicant attends VCP / airport with signed SI-001, certificate of isolation and photo identification.

Street check is completed by VCP / airport and entry is allowed.

ESSENTIAL SERVICE ENTRY

Essential service providers are to visit the website and complete Border Entry Pass and print RMP.

Essential workers attend the VCP / airport and present RMP, Border Entry Pass and photo identification to VCP / airport officers.

Street Check completed at VCP / airport and entry allowed.

Failure to comply with conditions on RMP or found to be operating outside of work will result in enforcement actions.

Generic Biosecurity Plan:

Border Entry Pass:
www.qld.gov.au/border-pass
EXEMPTION TO 14 DAY ISOLATION PERIOD

Application for entry with exemption to 14 day isolation period made to LDMG chair (Form SI-004) for consideration and approval. Approved applicants are forwarded to HBO for advice.

Approved applications are returned to applicant by LDMG and QPS are advised.

Applicant attends VCP / airport with photo identification and SI-004 which is signed by LDMG Chair.

Street check completed by QPS at VCP / airport and entry allowed.

IN TRANSIT

Persons seeking to transit through BSA completes online form and prints Border Entry Pass.

Applicants attend the VCP / airport and provides pass and photo identification to QPS officers.

Street Check completed by VCP / airport and entry allowed.

Failure to comply with conditions on transit pass will result in enforcement actions.