

Southern Gulf NRM and the COVID-19 Virus

Like every responsible organisation in Australia, Southern Gulf NRM must join the massive community effort underway to minimise the rate of spread of the COVID-19 virus. This will disrupt elements of our work, but we are proud to be playing our part in keeping our community healthy.

We will constantly monitor and be guided by the direction and advice of government health departments and our regional local governments. We will also respect and conform to the COVID-19 responses of our delivery partners and clients.

This message summarises how Southern Gulf NRM will conduct its operations.

- The Southern Gulf NRM office will remain open, with any staff present carefully observing social distancing and hygiene guidelines. Visitors to our office are asked to be aware of their own COVID-19 status and to not attend if there is any possibility that they might be infected.
- Southern Gulf NRM staff may work from home from 23 March 2020. The office landline telephone will be staffed as normal and staff will be available on their mobile phones or via email. See <https://www.southerngulf.com.au/about/meet-the-team/> for staff mobile numbers.
- Southern Gulf NRM will continue to organise and deliver workshops, planning meetings, training and field days provided no more than 20 people are in attendance and the event can be delivered in a way that is consistent with Health Department guidelines. This arrangement will be kept under careful review and we may cease these activities altogether if COVID-19 risk cannot be managed.
- Subject to the agreement of the relevant property manager, on-ground operations, site monitoring and other activities that involve minimal face to face contact will continue.
- Southern Gulf NRM will continue to undertake property visits in relation to project delivery but only if property managers are willing to host us. We will absolutely respect any property that would prefer to maintain quarantine at this time.
- Southern Gulf NRM will respect the very important priority of keeping our remote Indigenous communities safe. We will suspend any face to face engagement with Indigenous communities until the COVID-19 crisis passes and look forward to rebuilding relationships when it is safe to do so.

We hope you will accept that these measures as responsible, proportionate and relevant to the nature of our regional community. We wish you well in these difficult times.

Andrew Maclean
Chief Executive Officer
20 March 2020