

Southern Gulf NRM and the COVID-19 Pandemic

UPDATE 12 June 2020

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.

Australia has clearly made good progress in suppressing the extent and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. New cases are now rare in Queensland and across Australia. Testing is widely available and health authorities respond quickly to any outbreaks that might emerge. It appears that no infection has been recorded in NW Queensland.

As Governments move to reduce the restrictions on economic and social activity, it is an appropriate time to revise Southern Gulf NRM's response.

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

Southern Gulf NRM Office and Staffing Arrangements

- The Southern Gulf NRM office is now open to all staff, with no attendance limits. Strict hygiene and social distancing practice must continue to be observed.
- Southern Gulf NRM staff may continue to work from home if it is practical and convenient to do so.
- Southern Gulf NRM has prepared a Workplace Health Management Plan, following the guidance of Queensland Health. Staff and visitors are required to follow the requirements of that plan.
- The Southern Gulf NRM office will be open to visitors subject to the requirements of the Workplace Health Management Plan.

Meetings and Events

- Subject to an event-specific COVID-19 risk assessment, Southern Gulf NRM may recommence organising meetings, workshops, field days and other events involving groups of people from Monday 29 June.

- The number of participants at any events must not exceed 20 people (including staff) and must adhere to any relevant Government requirements and the risk assessment prepared for the event.
- On-line delivery of events will continue if it is feasible and effective.

Project Operations

- Subject to the agreement of the relevant property manager, on-ground operations delivered by Southern Gulf NRM staff or contractors may continue subject to appropriate social distancing behaviours.
- On-property operations are subject to the Southern Gulf NRM Work Method Statement.

Indigenous communities

- 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.

Interstate and intrastate travel

- Southern Gulf NRM will continue to avoid travel outside of the region unless there is a pressing need to do so. Any travel will be subject to adherence to the Workplace Health Management Plan.
- Interstate travel by staff or contractors engaged by Southern Gulf NRM will not recommence until after Monday 29 June 2020 and will be limited to travel that is essential for the operation of the business. Any travel will be subject to the Queensland Border restrictions and must conform to the Workplace Health Management Plan. Note that Southern Gulf NRM is an exempt agribusiness under the border restrictions.
- Any travel to Burke, Doomadgee and Mornington Shires will only take place in accordance with regional travel restrictions that apply at the time.

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

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about how Southern Gulf NRM can best continue to serve our regional community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew Maclean

Chief Executive Officer

12 June 2020