



BOULIA SHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNIQUE COVID-19 – 17TH March 2020

Boulia Shire Council is monitoring the impacts and concerns associated with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) very closely. In line with our core values, we are taking every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to protect our employees, contractors, residents, businesses and communities.

We are committed first and foremost to the safety of our community members many of whom are our employees, our local contractors and business partners. We will continue to review the impact of COVID-19 and we will engage regularly with key stakeholders on any potential impacts, where and when they are known.

We are closely monitoring advice and statements from the Australian Government, the State Government, Queensland Health and following guidelines from these authorities and Federal health departments, as required.

At the Boulia Shire Council meeting on the 16th March 2020, a potential outbreak of COVID-19 were discussed at length and the potential health impacts it would have on our community members across the Shire.

The Council made the decision to call a meeting of the business owners in the town of Boulia and Urandangie to review the future of events involving gathering together of people many of which would be tourists.

All Councillors agreed that all events on the social calendar be cancelled up to 1st September when this will be reviewed. (subject to variation if the situation improves).

The following will be impacted by this decision:

- Easter Races, Camp draft and Rodeo (cancelled)
- Camel Races (cancelled)
- Min Min Encounter **Show (closed)** - (the Visitor information centre will remain open)
- ANZAC Day ceremony. (cancelled)
- All future planned events by council which involve people gathering together (cancelled)

Closing down these events and the tourist attractions is an unprecedented action taken by your council to protect the health and well being of our community. This decision it is not something done lightly and sits heavily on our hearts.

The impact on our business operators cannot be underestimated and we would ask that you support these business wherever possible. Despite the ramifications of this decision and the impact on our businesses this move was supported by them. Quote by Bob Spilsbury, owner of the local store –‘We need to take care of our people in our communities & those who are most vulnerable’

Our message to you:

- If you are unwell – sore throat, cough etc please stay home.
- If you have a fever etc please make a phone call to the clinic – they will give you advice on what to do. DO NOT VISIT the clinic without their advice.
- Our method of communication will be via our email blast, Boulia Shire Council Web site and Facebook page. In the town area flyers will be placed at the normal locations.

Our intent is to minimise the chances of the virus effecting the wider community thus limiting overall impact to the shire long term.

At this point in time, we are not aware of any significant impacts to supply of fuel or goods and services, but we will continue to monitor the situation and we will provide regular updates.

For further information on COVID-19 please refer to:

Australian Government Department of Health:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Rick Britton

Mayor , Boulia Shire Council

HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

