



BOULIA SHIRE COUNCIL

3rd COMMUNIQUE COVID-19

25TH March 2020

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.

On Tuesday 24th March the Local Disaster Management Group held a preparatory meeting as we do with all potential threats to our community. The meeting was attended via teleconference and supported by the District Disaster Management Group in Mt Isa.

This meeting was to review the actions needed to minimise the effect of the virus on the Shire Residents and therefore has closed various council facilities, stopped non-essential staff travel outside the shire and rescheduled non-essential visits by contractors .

Actions so far:

- Closure of all tourist attractions within the shire- Easter Races and Camel Races, Min Min encounter, Boulia Heritage Complex, Visitor information Centre.
- Closure of the public Library (book borrowing can be prearranged with the library staff)
- Closure of the Sports Centre and Gymnasium
- Closure of the swimming pool and bubbler park.
- All non-essential travel by council employees for work is cancelled.
- Workcamp prisoners have returned back to Julia Creek.
- **ANZAC Day, the official commemorations will not be held but everyone is asked to shine a light (torch, phone etc) at the end of your driveway at 5.55am and make a 'guard of honour' up to the sky.**

The Post Office remains open with additional security of a Perspex screen completed (thank you Peter) and only one person permitted in at one time. Large parcels for collection to be arranged prior to your visit. Cash is still available at this stage. Preference is payment via card for any purchases. Stock has been removed from the customer area but can be requested.

The Council Office remains open at this stage but this may change in the future as the virus progress closer towards us. The door will be closed but please ring the bell for service - access for staff only to this building. This is to ensure we are able to continue to provide critical operational functions for the shire.

BORDER CLOSURES

The roads into and out of the state of Queensland are now closed. At this stage it is not clear on how this will be monitored / patrolled.

Sign trailers are to be delivered by Transport and Main roads to Boulia as advisory signs for road users. (Locations and wording to be determined)

We are not encouraging any visitors to Boulia and our roads are effectively closed to all travellers although still open to transport traffic for essential services

FUNERALS

Prime Ministers message: no more than 10 people at a funeral. We have a funeral this week and the police will be managing this.

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>

Lynn Moore

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HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

