

MEDIA RELEASE

Coronavirus Advice 4!

Carpentaria Shire Council would like to address concerns from the community over the current road closures in place.

Council is extremely concerned about the vulnerable members of our community and as such the local disaster management group has implemented a shire wide closure to all non-essential travellers. A permit system has been implemented and travellers are making application under this system for essential travel.

Carpentaria Shire is not yet classified as a Discrete Indigenous Community like others who are covered under the Designated Biosecurity Areas. We have made a formal request to be included as a Discrete Indigenous Community, so we are included under the declaration and additional formal restrictions can be applied.

Until declared we are subject to the same provisions of other regional towns which are not formally permitted to close their borders. As such Queensland Police officers are not able to issue formal fines for travel within Carpentaria Shire, nor formally restrict people from entering the town through legislation. The local police are currently working closely with Council to assist with the closure as best they can within their legislative control.

To help accommodate this closure, Council has dedicated their local laws compliance officer to monitor incoming roads. Keeping in mind that Carpentaria Shire only has access to only one Local Laws Officer who is spending late nights and early mornings monitoring our town and where possible is telling visitors without the appropriate permits to leave the shire. Those wishing to travel for essential purposes are encouraged to continue to obtain permits.

Council's Mayor and Executive team are consistently speaking with the State Government to have Carpentaria Shire Council recognised as a Discrete Indigenous Community so that the same legislative powers can be implemented within our towns as they have been in other remote communities in the Designated Biosecurity Areas, including the ability to shut borders to non-essential travel and issue fines for those not following process.

We understand it is frustrating at this time; however, Council would like to assure the community that they are doing everything within their legislative controls and above to try and support our towns during this time.

Mayor Jack said 'a majority of people are doing the right thing and conforming to the current rules in place, however there are those who are not and so we will continue to push the state for legislative control of our towns and the Shire'.

'We would like to thank everyone doing the right thing and ask those not following the process we have put in place to remember the devastating effect you could have on the people in our small shire' said Mayor Jack.

ENDS

Carpentaria Shire Council

Friday, 3 April 2020

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