



MEDIA RELEASE

Bus touring requirements and Airport transfers

Buses due to the confined space and ventilation are regarded as requiring special requirements to minimise the potential for spreading coronavirus.

EMT has approved seating for bus tours where passengers may be on a bus for several hours. Twenty-two-seater buses are approved to tour with 11 individual travellers and the 34 seat coaster buses are approved to tour with 17 individual travellers. Individual travellers can comprise a family group (such as a husband and wife or parents with children) that are staying on the island in a single household together. This means that the number of passengers on the bus undertaking a tour may be more than the 11 or 17 depending on the composition of the tour group. The bus operators will seat the individual travellers to maximise physical distancing between the individuals, family or household groups as required.

Airport bus transfers require the ability to transfer visitors to their respective accommodation or the airport in a timely manner. To do this we need to utilise the buses capacity, but in most cases the time in the bus is relatively short. EMT has agreed that bus operators may exceed the approved number of individual travellers for airport transfers. This approval is subject to all passengers wearing face masks from the time they leave the airport until they reach their accommodation. Operators can deny carriage to passengers who will not wear masks during airport transfers.

Bus operators have developed COVID safe plans for their operations and these need to be followed. Buses have been fitted with hand sanitizers and these along with normal hygiene (coughing, sneezing, along with avoiding face touching and hugging) need to be followed.

Cruises to the island

Commonwealth restrictions on Cruise ships visiting Australia have been extended until the 17th of December. This restriction applies to Norfolk Island.

If domestic cruises are commenced within Australia, EMT will review the COVID safe requirements for any cruises that are proposing to visit the island.

Contact Tracing testing

IMT will be carrying out a test of our ability to undertake contact tracing on the island next week. Should your business be asked to provide your contact tracing customer register it is part of this exercise. The exercise is being undertaken to ensure that should a positive case or a close contact of a positive case arrive on the island we can respond and identify those that need to be isolated quickly.

29th October 2020

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