EMNI - MEDIA RELEASE

26 June 2020

STATE OF EMERGENCY - EXTENSION

Based on the on-going risk of COVID-19 to the island's community and the necessity to respond and undertake recovery operations associated with managing this risk, the current State of Disaster or Emergency has been extended for the purpose of Recovery Operations. This advice is provided consistent with sub-section 9(4)(b) of the Disaster and Emergency Management Act 2001 (NI) and the requirement under section 7.1 of the NORDISPLAN to provide the means for restoration of facilities and services necessary for the normal functioning of the community. The Recovery Operations extension will focus on restoring the normal operation of the tourist industry on the island within an environment in which COVID-19 poses a continuing risk.

The Declaration of the State of Emergency (Recovery Operations) commences from 16:16 hr on Tuesday 30 June and remains in force until 31 December 2020 or revoked under sub-section 9(5) of the Act.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Preventing any potentially infected persons (visitors or residents) from travelling to the island is critical. Travel restrictions will continue with the following amendments:

1. Only residents and essential personnel will be permitted to travel to Norfolk Island until 9 July 2020.
2. Anyone who is unwell with respiratory symptoms should not travel to Norfolk Island.
3. Anyone who has travelled to or lived in a Hotspot area during the period 14 days prior to travel, should not travel to Norfolk Island. For up to date information about the hotspot areas within Australia visit the Qld Government website which is updated daily.
   https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/hotspots-covid-19
   The Incident Controller has the ability to order quarantine if travellers identify as high risk.
4. From 10 July 2020 the Norfolk Island border will be officially open, however travel will be restricted to domestic airline passengers who identify as low-risk travellers.
5. From 10 July 2020 every person intending to travel to Norfolk Island must complete an online entry pass three days prior to travelling. The application process is an automated program designed to screen applicants and identify potential high-risk travellers. The screening will also provide valuable data to track inbound travellers in the event that a positive case of COVID-19 is identified.

RECOVERY OPERATIONS PLAN

The objective of the Recovery Operations Plan is to clearly articulate the operation of the island in respect to reopening for visitation in an environment where the COVID-19 virus is part of the global and national environment. It is recognised that in the context of pandemic management prior to eradication, that there is an ever-present risk of infection in the community and the risk is never zero.

The plan is drafted in the context of mitigating known risks while facilitating a return to 'normal' as safely and quickly as practicable. It provides a framework whereby measures will be used to reduce the potential for disease transmission within the island community. These measures are mandatory in the recovery operations under the State of Emergency (SoE), or to be followed. The measures are consistent with the National Cabinet's COVID Safe Roadmap to unlock domestic tourism.

The Recovery Operations Plan is supported by NIHRACS and NSW Public Health. The plan is available from the EMNI website page.

http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/sites/default/files/docs/NIRC/EMNI_MRs/Norfolk%20Island%20COVID-19%20Recovery%20Plan.pdf

BUSINESS COVIDSAFE CERTIFICATION

As part of the Recovery Operations Plan, businesses on the island will be expected to be COVID safe and have a COVID Safe Business plan consistent with NSW Government COVIDSafe Businesses. (https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe-businesses)

All businesses and organisations in Norfolk Island need to protect staff, workers, customers and visitors from COVID-19. This applies whether your business has stayed open, or is reopening as restrictions are eased. Having a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place will help to protect your staff, workers, customers and visitors.

NSW Government have developed COVID-19 Safety Plan templates for many specific industries so you can demonstrate your commitment to COVID Safety and keep our community safe in three easy steps.

1. Complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan – templates tailored to industry.
2. Register as a COVID Safe business – instil customer confidence.
3. Show that you're COVID Safe – download and display your poster.

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