

# Q&A – 20 March 2020

## Gove Peninsula communities access and Central Arnhem Road permits

### Are there restrictions on people travelling from Nhulunbuy to Yirrkala and Gunyajarara?

- Remote communities in the Northern Territory are only open to essential travel in response to concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Yirrkala and Gunyajarara are subject to these remote community travel restrictions, as are all other communities and homelands in East Arnhem.
- This means that permits to enter these communities will only be granted for essential travel.

### Is my work in Yirrkala or Gunyajarara essential?

- Essential travel is travel to transport individuals or goods that are necessary to keep a community operating. This means the following people can continue to travel to Yirrkala and Gunyajarara with a valid permit:
  - Doctors, nurses, teachers, police officers and council workers
  - Workers who deliver the CDP program
  - Workers making deliveries of food or medical supplies
  - Workers who are building or repairing essential community infrastructure such as housing, police stations, health centres and power and water infrastructure or road maintenance.
- If you are unsure whether your work is essential, contact the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189.
- If you are travelling to any remote community, including Yirrkala and Gunyajarara, ensure you have a valid Northern Land Council permit. You can apply [here](#).

### I am a contractor already working on a job in Yirrkala or Gunyajarara, can I keep going with this job?

- Yes, if you are a contractor currently working on a job in Yirrkala, Gunyajarara, or another community or homeland, you can continue that job until it is complete but should also exercise social distancing and hygiene practices to ensure limited interaction with community members.
- If you are unsure whether you should continue with your job, contact the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189, speak to your government contract manager (for example, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics or Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development) or discuss with your client.
- If you are travelling to any remote community, including Yirrkala and Gunyajarara, ensure you have a valid Northern Land Council permit. You can apply [here](#).

### **I have been asked to do a new job in Yirrkala or Gunyaṅara, what should I do?**

- You should consider whether the job is essential using the guidance on what essential travel is.
- If you are not sure, contact the Remote Travel Hotline on 1800 518 189, speak to your government contract manager (for example, the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics or Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development) or discuss with your client. They will be able to provide you with advice on whether your travel is essential.
- If you are travelling to any remote community, including Yirrkala and Gunyaṅara, ensure you have a valid Northern Land Council permit. You can apply [here](#).

### **I live in Nhulunbuy but would like to go to Yirrkala or Gunyaṅara, can I go and visit?**

- If your visit is not essential travel, you are not permitted to travel to Yirrkala and Gunyaṅara – do not travel to either community without a Northern Land Council permit.
- Access for fishing, to launch a boat and other recreational activities are considered non-essential – use the facilities at Melville Bay.
- The Buku-Larrnggary Mulka Art Centre is temporarily closed to the public

### **I live in Nhulunbuy, can I travel on the Central Arnhem Road?**

- Residents of Nhulunbuy must apply for a permit to drive to the Central Arnhem Road.
- The Nhulunbuy office of the Northern Land Council will issue permits to residents to travel directly to Katherine and vice versa for essential purposes only.
- You can contact the Nhulunbuy office of the Northern Land Council on 08 8986 8500 or visit them in Endeavour Square to discuss whether your personal travel is essential before you apply for your permit.

### **If I am driving the Central Arnhem Road, where can I stop?**

- If you are granted a permit to drive the Central Arnhem road, you must take all possible steps to minimise contact with remote community residents.
- Measures you should take include:
  - Do not deviate from the Central Arnhem Road.
  - Do not stop at or enter any remote communities along the Central Arnhem Road. This includes any homelands, Gapuwiyak, Bulman, Beswick and Barunga.
- Do not access the shops or fuel at any remote communities (including at any homelands, Gapuwiyak, Bulman, Beswick and Barunga). Mainoru Store can still be accessed.

**The Prime Minister and Chief Minister have today flagged further restrictions and enforcement that may apply to remote communities. Advice will be updated as new information becomes available.**