



Media Release

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

A Message for the Residents Living in the Barkly Region

To reduce the risk of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading into our region, Barkly Regional Council has restricted staff travel to essential travel only to and from our Remote Service Delivery Communities. We note that travel restrictions have been implemented by the Northern Territory Government and both the NLC and CLC have stopped all non-essential travel to Communities. We have made the decision to stop non-essential travel to protect our residents and our staff while we monitor the situation in the coming days and weeks.

Critical to this decision is our responsibility to members of our community, in particular those who are vulnerable, and for our staff who need to remain well so they can still do their vital work. We don't want to place any additional burden on our teams in remote communities so we will still be providing essential support, particularly in the areas of Aged Care, NDIS and some critical infrastructure support.

The Northern Territory Government has commenced developing plans for each community. Local **Incident** Management controllers are working with community members and the Barkly Regional Council on the ground to share the good hygiene message and put contingency plans in place should the virus spread to the Barkly.

Council is well positioned and has contingency plans in place to support communities and provide critical support to our staff should the situation deteriorate.

For further information contact our Media Officer, Kym Lenoble, Public Relations Officer, Barkly Regional Council **(08) 89620015** or **0448 030 123**.
kym.lenoble@barkly.nt.gov.au