



As at 8:00am on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 there are **NO cases** in the Cocos Keeling Islands.



### **CURRENT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS**

The IOT COVID-19 Subcommittee continues to work closely with the Western Australian State Government to protect our communities and maintain our travel arrangements. As you are aware, the IOT's are aligned to WA's controlled border arrangements and risk ratings for the states and territories of mainland Australia.

Following the increase in community transmission in both New South Wales and Victoria over the past fortnight, the Office of the Administrator has moved quickly to mirror the changes put in place by WA. This includes the re-instatement of the hard border for both NSW and Victoria. While understanding that these rapid changes created some disruption and frustration for residents and visitors, the adjustments are critical to keep the IOT COVIDSafe and COVID-free.

Those travellers from NSW and Victoria who had previously applied and been approved to travel to Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been notified and their entry approvals cancelled.

Travellers from NSW or Victoria who recently arrived in WA can re-apply for travel to Cocos (Keeling) Islands once they have completed 14 days' self-quarantine in WA and met any further WA requirements, such as providing a negative COVID-19 test.

Those from NSW or Victoria seeking an exemption to travel to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands should use the WA Government's strict exemption list as a guide. Any applications for exemption will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the WA Government.

The WA exemption list is limited to:

- certain senior Government officials
- certain active military personnel
- a member of the Commonwealth Parliament
- a person carrying out functions under a law of the Commonwealth
- a person responsible for transport freight or logistics
- anyone who is given approval by IOT Administrator, Territory Controllers or WA State Emergency Coordinator or an authorised officer
- compassionate grounds.

Please note, the issuing of an exemption to travel to Cocos (Keeling) Islands does not remove the requirement to undertake fourteen days self-isolation/quarantine in WA prior to any travel to the islands.



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Anyone affected by the changed border arrangements for NSW and Victoria who entered the CKI over recent days, has been contacted, quarantined and medically screened. This is in line with the WA protocols and expert health advice.

The Office of the Administrator's rigorous and stringent processes, including mandatory application processes and detailed travel history for all travellers to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, are in place to protect our communities.

The IOT COVID-19 Subcommittee continues to review the situation and adjust our settings as required. We appreciate your flexibility as we continue our efforts to keep you safe and support the local communities. Further updates will be issued as needed.

### **COVID-19 IOT TRAVEL INFORMATION WEBSITE**

This website provides up-to-date travel information for those planning on travelling to Cocos (Keeling) Islands, tourism operators and other IOT based stakeholders.

<https://indianoceanterritories.com.au/covid-19-iot-travel-information/>

The Office of the Administrator is responsible for ensuring the information is current.

Up-to-date information on travel to WA with controlled interstate borders can be found here:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/covid-communications/covid-19-coronavirus-controlled-interstate-border>

### **CHANGES TO IOT TRAVEL APPLICATION FORMS**

Given the recent adjustments to controlled border arrangements in WA and the IOT, the Territory Controllers and Office of the Administrator have now updated the application forms for travel to the IOT.

With travel now occurring from a broader range of locations, it was important to review the application process and information collected, to ensure it supports the current travel and border arrangements and continues to protect the IOT communities from COVID-19.

Under the new arrangements, there are now individual application forms for Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) and Christmas Island (CI). All travellers – regardless of whether they are IOT residents or visitors – must complete a travel form. For example, Christmas Islanders travelling to Cocos must complete the form for travel entry into Cocos. The same applies for Cocos residents travelling to Christmas Island.

Anyone travelling to both islands will be required to complete forms for both CKI and CI.

If someone is due to travel and has already received travel approval using the old application form, there is no further action required – you do not need to submit a new form. If you are travelling to both islands and have been approved for both destinations on the old forms, again you do not need to take further action. However, if you are travelling to both CI and CKI and have only submitted an application to travel to one of the islands, please submit a further application using the relevant new form for the island destination for which you still require travel approval.



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The updated forms and process will better support the Territory Controllers and health service in our COVID-19 response and contact tracing, in the event of a positive COVID case in the IOT.

Please see the new form links which are now live for further information:

[https://bit.ly/IOT\\_Traveller\\_Form\\_Cocos](https://bit.ly/IOT_Traveller_Form_Cocos)

With every border adjustment, everyone must continue to play their part in keeping the IOT COVID-free, by following public gathering and hygiene rules.

## EXTENSION OF IOT STATE OF EMERGENCY

As part of the Australian Government's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT), Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Honourable Nola Marino MP, is extending the declared states of emergency (SoE) in Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI) up until 16 March 2021, in line with the national state of emergency.

## WA ENTRY UPDATE

All entry into WA requires a WA Entry – Request for Approval as an Exempt Traveller application.

People **must** apply using the “Good to Go Pass” app which is completed electronically. It can be found at <https://www.g2gpass.com.au>. For anyone that is experiencing difficulties with obtaining approval from WA Police, please email [iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au) for assistance.

## IOT to WA – HOW TO COMPLETE THE WA APPLICATION:

- Nominate “Other”
- In the free text field, detail the nature of travel:
  - declare that in the last 14 days prior to entry into WA, you have not been outside the IOT or WA (noting that there is a penalty for providing false information).
  - provide details of your travel, including where you are travelling to and from, dates of travel and reason for travel. Add additional supporting documentation as required.

All IOT entry and travel requirements remain unchanged – people must apply for approval to travel to the IOT using the new electronic application form: [https://bit.ly/IOT\\_Traveller\\_Form\\_Cocos](https://bit.ly/IOT_Traveller_Form_Cocos)

## Be COVIDSafe, keep COVID-free

There are still no cases of COVID-19 in the CKI. However, with the community transmission on Australia's east coast, it is a timely reminder to be COVIDSafe.

COVIDSafe means maintaining at least 1.5 metres between you and others at all times, regularly washing your hands with soap, staying at home if you're sick and getting tested if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.



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If you have previously been tested for COVID but start to feel sick again, get re-tested. Stay at home while you wait for your results.

Wash your hands to stop the spread - clean hands keep you healthy and help stop the spread of germs. Regularly wash your hands for 20–30 seconds with soap. Remember to wash in between your fingers, the back of your hands and your thumbs.

Always wash your hands after using the bathroom, when you're preparing food, before or after eating, and after you have been out.

Hand sanitiser is a good alternative when soap and water aren't available.



#### FUTURE UPDATES:

As always, the Office of the Administrator will issue communications on urgent or time critical matters as needed. Individual queries can be directed to [iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au)


#### KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Sailing vessels - The travel zone exemptions only relate to air arrivals. Anyone arriving by sailing vessel to CKI will still need to quarantine, regardless of where they come from (including WA).
- Charter vessels and buses are exempt from physical distancing requirements, as long as strict hygiene and cleaning requirements are followed and customer records kept.
- Medical Screening at IOTHS - The CKI Community is reminded that they must complete mandatory medical screening immediately upon entering the IOT Health Services. Upon completion of the screening questions, IOTHS staff will then direct you to the appropriate health service area.

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- COVIDSafe app – see Fact Sheet: [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Cocos\\_Keeling\\_Islands\\_COVIDSafe\\_App\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_COVIDSafe_App_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
- Community members, please support businesses and venues by providing their contact details upon entering the premises, to allow for contact tracing if and when required.
- **Managing Stress and Anxiety, or Family Conflict or Violence** - A factsheet on Managing Stress and Anxiety can be found on the Shire website at [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/Managing Stress and Anxiety.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/Managing_Stress_and_Anxiety.pdf)  
Family welfare services in the CKI are available for support and advice for anyone experiencing family conflicts or violence, or who is worried about how potential self-isolation or changes to your routine due to COVID-19 will impact on your safety and well-being.  
If you need support in discussing Family Conflict or Violence, please contact the health services, our social worker or police on the following numbers.
  - Home Island Clinic – 9162 7609
  - West Island Clinic – 9162 6655
  - Cocos Community Policing Team 9162 6600

*If you feel unsafe or are concerned for someone's safety, please call 000*

- If you are showing any **symptoms** such as **fever, dry cough, sore throat, tiredness** or **shortness of breath**, please **phone ahead** to:
  - Home Island Clinic – 9162 7609
  - West Island Clinic – 9162 6655

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND FACTSHEETS:

Additional and more detailed information is available. Please email [covid19questions@cki.cc](mailto:covid19questions@cki.cc) and we can provide detailed responses.

Factsheets on the following are available on the Shire's website – see links below.

1. Travelling to WA factsheet: [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Cocos\\_Keeling\\_Islands\\_HOW\\_TO\\_COMPLETE\\_THE\\_WA\\_APPLICATION\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_HOW_TO_COMPLETE_THE_WA_APPLICATION_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
2. Travelling to CKI Fact Sheet: [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Cocos\\_Keeling\\_Islands\\_TRAVELLING\\_TO\\_COCOS\\_KEELING\\_ISLANDS\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_TRAVELLING_TO_COCOS_KEELING_ISLANDS_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
3. Travelling to CI & CKI: [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Cocos\\_Keeling\\_Islands\\_TRAVELLING\\_TO\\_CHIRSTMAS\\_ISLAND\\_COCOS\\_KEELING\\_ISLANDS.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_TRAVELLING_TO_CHIRSTMAS_ISLAND_COCOS_KEELING_ISLANDS.pdf)
4. COVIDSafe app Fact Sheet: [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Cocos\\_Keeling\\_Islands\\_COVIDSafe\\_App\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_COVIDSafe_App_Fact_Sheet.pdf)
5. Testing for COVID-19 Guidelines – [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Cocos\\_Keeling\\_Islands\\_Testing\\_for\\_COVID-19\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Cocos_Keeling_Islands_Testing_for_COVID-19_Guidelines.pdf)



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6. Frequently Asked Questions - [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_FAQs.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_FAQs.pdf)
7. COVID-19 Environmental Cleaning for Workplaces (non Healthcare settings) - [https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19\\_Environmental\\_Cleaning\\_for\\_Workplaces\\_non\\_Healthcare\\_settings.pdf](https://shire.cc/images/Covid19/COVID-19_Environmental_Cleaning_for_Workplaces_non_Healthcare_settings.pdf)
8. **Cleaning Procedures** - Some useful cleaning references:  
Safe Work Australia Cleaning Checklist  
[https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/COVID-19\\_Cleaning-Checklist\\_26May2020.pdf](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/COVID-19_Cleaning-Checklist_26May2020.pdf)

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