

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Disaster group pushes for changes to Biosecurity Determination and travel restrictions

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COOKTOWN

Cook Shire Council is pushing for three key changes to the Federal Government's determination which limits travel to the region during the coronavirus pandemic.

Council's recommendations were endorsed by the Cook Shire Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG) last week, and are aimed at mitigating the economic and social pressures the ongoing travel restrictions are causing. "Protecting human life is paramount, however the restrictions do not distinguish between Cooktown, which is a major service centre for the Cape, and other discrete Indigenous communities in our region," Cook Shire Mayor and LDMG Chair Peter Scott said. "The changes we have proposed would help ease the damaging economic and social impacts the restrictions have placed on the Cape."

The LDMG is proposing an economic travel corridor between Cairns and Cook Shire, a Business Continuity Support package specifically to assist businesses affected by the Biosecurity Determination and allowing residents to quarantine in approved accommodation in Cooktown, instead of Cairns.

"A precedent has been set for variation of the determination, with the approval of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Yarrabah Same Day Patient Return Plan," Cr Scott said.

The recommendations are part of the Cape York Economic Recovery Plan, which was submitted to the Federal Government last week.

For more information contact Cr Scott via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4082 0500.

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