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PDR: MC20-032741

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C
Secretary
Mr Duggan
Ms Wilson
Ms Patterson
Ms Millar
Mr Strapp
Mr Poels
Mr Jones

To: Prime Minister (for signature as soon as possible)**EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF TRAVELLERS FROM SELF-ISOLATION**

PMO
Dr Kunkel
s 22

Recommendation - that you:

1. Sign the draft response (Attachment A) to Minister Dutton agreeing to exempt certain categories of travellers from the requirement to self-isolate for a period of 14 days in support of mitigating the transmission risk of COVID-19.

s 22

Signed / Not Signed

SCOTT MOR

Date: 17.3.20

Comments:

Key Points:

1. On 15 March 2020, the Australian Government imposed a universal precautionary self-isolation requirement on all international arrivals.
2. The Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, wrote to you on 16 March 2020 seeking agreement to exempt certain categories of travellers from the requirement to self-isolate for a period of 14 days in support of mitigating the transmission risk of COVID-19 (Attachment B). The letter specifically requests your agreement to:
 - a. exemptions for all commercial airline crew, airline and medical services crew from air ambulance and medical evacuation services, and screened and health professional cleared maritime crew from the 14 day self-isolation requirement, on the conditions outlined in Attachment B;
 - b. the period maritime crew spend at sea prior to their arrival in Australia counting toward the 14 day period of self-isolation; and
 - c. consideration of travel between Australian territories and the Australian mainland as domestic, for the purposes of the 14 day self-isolation requirements.
3. The request is consistent with your announcement on 16 March 2020 that limited exemptions will apply for flight crews, who will be expected to monitor their health and practice social distancing while in Australia.
4. Agreement to the proposed exemptions for airline and maritime will help alleviate disruption for the passage of air and sea cargo.

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Matthew Strapp
Acting Assistant Secretary
Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture and
Regional Development
16 March 2020

Policy Officer: [REDACTED] s 22
Phone no: [REDACTED] s 22
Consultation:

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE

ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC20-032741

17 MAR 2020

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 16 March 2020 seeking my agreement to exempt certain categories of travellers from the requirement to self-isolate for a period of 14 days in support of mitigating the transmission risk of COVID-19. I agree to your request and note I recently announced limited exemptions will apply for flight crews, who will be expected to monitor their health and practice social distancing while in Australia.

I support your proposal that, for the purposes of the 14 day self-isolation requirements, travel between Australian territories and the Australian mainland is considered domestic. Travellers arriving in Australian territories directly from international ports will be required to undertake precautionary self-isolation for 14 days, consistent with arrangements for international travellers arriving in Australia.

I ask you to continue to work with the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, on the appropriate conditions for these arrangements.

I have provided a copy of this letter to the Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, the Treasurer, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, the Minister for Finance, Senator the Hon Mathias Cormann, the Minister for Health, and the Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories, the Hon Nola Marino MP.

Yours sincerely

s 22

SCOTT MORRISON

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THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS

Ref No: MC20-005677

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Following the decision to require all people arriving in Australia to submit to precautionary self-isolation for a period of 14 days in support of mitigating the transmission risk of COVID-19, I am writing to request that certain categories of traveller be exempt from this requirement.

Under existing arrangements, commercial airline crew are exempt from travel restrictions in place for those who have travelled through specific countries, including China. This exemption also covers existing self-isolation requirements, if crew members are not displaying symptoms and if they adopt personal protective equipment when moving through public spaces (including airports).

I request that this exemption be extended to all commercial airline crew. I also request that exemption be afforded to airline and medical crew from air ambulance and medical evacuation services.

Consistent with extant arrangements, exemption would be dependent on individuals not displaying symptoms, and the requirement to adopt personal protective equipment.

Regarding commercial shipping, maritime crew often fly in or out of Australia in order to meet their vessels. The Australian Border Force are working with partner agencies and industry to ascertain whether arriving maritime crew members could all be subjected to enhanced border screening (including medical checks by health professionals).

Should enhanced screening be possible, I request that exemption from self-isolation be extended to those that are cleared by health professionals. No exemption would exist for crew when enhanced screening is not available.

Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone: (02) 6277 7860 Facsimile: (02) 6273 4144

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Enabling commercial airline and maritime crew to continue to travel without disruption is a critical enabler for the passage of air and sea cargo.

In further support of enabling the passage of sea cargo, I request that the period maritime crew spend at sea prior to their arrival in Australia count toward the 14 day period of self-isolation. In practice, if a vessel has travelled for ten days since last being in a foreign port, the period of precautionary self-isolation for its crew members would be the remaining four days rather than the full 14.

Given that crew cannot physically interact with anyone beyond their number while at sea and the fact that commercial vessels generally have small crews, their period between ports is effectively already isolation. Such exemptions would considerably reduce the impact of the border measures on commercial shipping.

Finally, I request clarification regarding travel from Australian territories external to the mainland, such as Christmas Island. I propose that travel between Australian territories and the Australian mainland be treated as domestic for the purposes of these restrictions, meaning there will be no requirement for precautionary self-isolation.

Yours sincerely



s 22

PETER DUTTON
16 March 2020

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PDR: MS20-000431

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

PM&C
Secretary
Mr Duggan
Ms Patterson
Ms Wilson
Ms Millar
Mr Reid
Mr Poels
Mr Jones
Ms Moran

To: Prime Minister (for signature as soon as possible)

CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS – FURTHER RESTRICTIONS

Recommendation - that you:

1. sign the draft response (Attachment A) to the Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, (the Minister) providing in-principle agreement to further steps to reduce the risk to Australia's health and quarantine capacity from cruise ship operations, subject to:

a. the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, being satisfied of the necessary conditions for exercising his power to make an emergency requirement under section 477 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*; and

b. [REDACTED] s 34(3)

s 34(3)

s 22

s 34(2)

Signed / Not Signed

SCOTT MORRISON

Date:

24-3-20

Comments:

Key Points:

1. The Minister is seeking to extend restrictions on cruise ship access to Australian ports to reduce the risk to Australia's health and quarantine capacity (Attachment B).

a. Restricted entry for international cruise ships into Australia was announced on 16 March 2020. The Minister for Health made the necessary emergency requirement under the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements) Determination 2020* (the Determination) on 18 March 2020 (Attachment C).

2. To give effect to the Minister's request, the Minister for Health needs to make a further emergency requirement under the Determination. Your draft response provides in-principle agreement to the Minister's request, subject to the Minister for Health being satisfied of the necessary conditions to make an emergency requirement, and to

s 34(3)

s 34(2)

3. On advice from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communication and the Australian Border Force, your draft response extends the exemption for non-Australian flagged cruise ships to include vessels home porting in

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Australia at the time the initial restrictions were announced, and sets out requirements should these vessels wish to remain.

• Matthew Strapp
A/g Assistant Secretary
Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture and
Regional Development
23 March 2020

Policy Officer: [REDACTED] s 22
Phone no: [REDACTED] s 22
Consultation: GovDiv, DITRDC, ABF

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A DRAFT RESPONSE

ATTACHMENT B INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

ATTACHMENT C BIOSECURITY DETERMINATION 2020



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MS20-000431

24 MAR 2020

The Hon Peter Dutton MP
Minister for Home Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2020 regarding further steps to reduce the risk to Australia's health and quarantine capacity from cruise ship operations.

I agree in-principle:

- to an extension of the restriction of cruise ship vessel entry into Australia for a further two months from the end of the current 30 day restriction to 15 June 2020;
- that the restriction be extended to apply to any vessel undertaking a domestic, overnight cruise including all Australian and international vessels;
- a review of the extension period should occur three weeks before its expiry, with the outcome notified to industry; and
- that all non-Australian flagged cruise ships currently in Australia be directed to depart Australian waters as soon as possible, excluding vessels that have previously been approved entry or were home porting in Australia at the time the cruise ship ban was implemented. Where necessary, vessels leaving Australia should be permitted to re-provision to facilitate departure. Home ported cruise ships that wish to remain in Australia should seek approval from the Government and should remain with the minimal crew required to ensure maintenance and safe operation.

My agreement is subject to these actions having a sound legal basis, to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, being satisfied of the necessary conditions for exercising his power to make an emergency requirement under section 477 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, and

s 34(3)


s 34(3)

s 34(2)

I ask that these further steps allow for appropriate exemptions for vessels undertaking essential domestic operations, including freight, and note Australia will need to continue to meet our obligations under international conventions relating to safety of life at sea.

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I have provided a copy of this response to members of the NSC COVID-19 Taskforce.


Yours sincerely

s 22

SCOTT MORRISON

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**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS**

Dear Prime Minister

Following agreement by the National Security Committee s 34(2) the Government announced that international cruise ship operations would be restricted from entry into Australia for 30 days from 16 March 2020.

While this decision reinforced actions taken by the industry to mitigate the risk of introducing COVID-19 to Australia, recent events have underlined the need for further action. Accordingly, I propose the Government take further steps to reduce the risk to Australia's health and quarantine capacity stemming from the arrival of a cruise ship with suspected cases of COVID-19.

Specifically, I recommend the National Security Committee of Cabinet COVID-19 Taskforce agree the following:

- an extension of the restriction of cruise ship vessels into Australia for a further two months from the end of the current 30 day restriction to 15 June 2020;
- the restriction be extended to apply to any vessel undertaking a domestic, overnight cruise including all Australian and international vessels;
- a review of the extension period should occur three weeks before its expiry, with the outcome notified to industry; and
- all non-Australian flagged cruise ships currently in Australia be directed to depart Australian waters as soon as possible and excluding those vessels that have previously been approved entry. Where necessary, these vessels will be permitted to re-provision to facilitate departure.

My portfolio is working with the cruise ship industry and will continue to do so during this period. I have copied this letter to members of the NSC COVID-19 Taskforce.

Yours sincerely

s 22

PETER DUTTON
23 March 2020



Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020

I, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, make the following declaration.

Dated 18 March 2020

David Hurley
Governor-General

By His Excellency's Command

Greg Hunt
Minister for Health

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020*.

2 Commencement

- (1) Each provision of this instrument specified in column 1 of the table commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect according to its terms.

Commencement information		
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Provisions	Commencement	Date/Details
1. The whole of this instrument	Immediately after this instrument is registered.	18 March 2020

Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this instrument as originally made. It will not be amended to deal with any later amendments of this instrument.

- (2) Any information in column 3 of the table is not part of this instrument. Information may be inserted in this column, or information in it may be edited, in any published version of this instrument.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 475 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

4 Human biosecurity emergency

A human biosecurity emergency exists.

5 Listed human disease to which this instrument relates

This instrument relates to human coronavirus with pandemic potential.

Note 1: COVID-19 is the name given by the World Health Organization to the disease.

Note 2: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the name given by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses to the virus that causes the disease.

6 Nature of human biosecurity emergency and conditions that gave rise to it

Human coronavirus with pandemic potential is an infectious disease:

- (a) that has entered Australian territory; and
- (b) that is fatal in some cases; and
- (c) that there was no vaccine against, or antiviral treatment for, immediately before the commencement of this instrument; and
- (d) that is posing a severe and immediate threat to human health on a nationally significant scale.

7 Period during which this instrument is in force

This instrument is in force during the period:

- (a) beginning when this instrument commences; and
- (b) ending at the end of 3 months beginning on the day this instrument is registered.