



COVID-19 Travel Restrictions

1 April 2020

Three levels of travel restrictions have been successively introduced in Western Australia to stop the spread of COVID-19 to and within the State: interstate restrictions enforced at the WA state and territory borders; Commonwealth/State restrictions affecting the Kimberley and remote Aboriginal communities; and intrastate restrictions on travel between the State's designated regions.

Some of these restrictions contain important exemptions for primary production as set out below.

Interstate Travel Restrictions

- Under a State of Emergency declaration, a Direction was enforced from 1:30pm on 24 March 2020 to restrict Western Australian borders to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- This Direction applies to all travellers via road, sea, air and rail.
- All non-essential interstate travel should be avoided.
- Unless exempted, arrivals from interstate are ordered to self-isolate for 14 days.

Levels of transit

From when the interstate borders were closed to midnight Tuesday 31 March (*last night*), 255 vehicles (120 commercial and 135 private) were processed through the WA-NT checkpoint. For the same period, 1139 vehicles were processed through the WA-SA checkpoint (599 commercial and 540 private).

Exemptions

The Direction includes exemptions for essential services and workers, which apply to:

- freight and logistics services into and out of Western Australia
- people with specialist skills critical to maintaining key industries and businesses, including those employed or engaged in agricultural or primary industries who are required to be physically present in WA.

This provision ensures agricultural production and food supplies, such as fresh produce, meat, processed products and livestock, can continue to be transported. Police Officers and Responsible Officers will provide instructions to essential service providers about the principles they will need to follow.

Travellers are urged to be patient and follow the instructions of Checkpoint officers.

More information is available from the WA Government website
<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/wa-government-border-fact-sheet>

A direct link to the Direction is available [here](#).

Commonwealth/State Restrictions

- Border restrictions are now in place to access designated regions within WA, including the Kimberley (comprising all four local government areas); the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku, and parts of the Shire of East Pilbara encompassing the communities of Jigalong, Martu homeland communities and Kiwirrkurra.
- These arrangements have been put in place through agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments.
- Commonwealth Biosecurity zones are given effect through the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020
- This is to help curb the spread of COVID-19 into our very vulnerable communities, which could have catastrophic consequence

Exemptions

- Under these arrangements, after 9pm on Thursday, March 26, 2020, any person who is outside the designated regions can only enter them if that person:
 - is providing essential services or supplies; or
 - has been quarantined from the general public for the previous 14 days
- The State Government has today approved an interim 'Special Permission' exemption for food production workers subject to strict conditions that minimise the risk of COVID-19 spread while ensuring food production workers can get on with the essential job of providing the food our State needs.
- The exemption is effective immediately. Further detail on operation of the exemption will be provided to industry shortly.

See the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Lands' [media release](#) for more information.

Intrastate Travel Restrictions

- Restrictions on travel between regions within the State are now in effect to protect Western Australians from the COVID-19 threat.
- These restrictions came into effect from 11:59 on Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

- Regions are as defined by the boundaries of the State's nine Regional Development Commissions with Perth and Peel being combined into one region given proximity and integrated nature of the two regions. For more information, please view the [regional boundaries map](#) or use the [interactive mapping service](#).
- These restrictions are a State Government directive under the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA)* and are being enforced by WA Police.

Exemptions

Exemptions to the intrastate travel ban include:

- Travel for work purposes
- To transport freight
- To attend medical appointments
- To attend school or an educational institution where necessary
- To those who do not have access to groceries or supplies within their region
- Catering for family members
- Compassionate grounds

Importantly, freight will continue to operate and is permitted to travel through regional boundaries. Agriculture, food production or other primary industry are considered an 'essential service' and are therefore eligible for an exemption.

DPIRD is working with WA Police to establish an online service so relevant businesses and travellers can obtain Temporary Travel Permits to clarify the authority and conditions for travel. Importantly, the permits will allow fast-tracking through boundary check-points to help minimise congestion.

In the meantime individuals seeking to travel across regional boundaries should travel with appropriate identification and evidence that they meet the categories exempted, e.g. a letter/email to support legitimate travel.

The directions for regional travel are available at the wa.gov.au website.