

## General Manager's Direction

### ***Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994***

#### ***Section 191A – Direction to person about operation of ship in relation to pilotage area***

#### **Application**

This direction applies to the masters of all cruise ships in Queensland waters intending to enter the Thursday Island pilotage area.

For the purpose of this direction, a cruise ship means a ship carrying more than 20 passengers, other than a ship operating a ferry service within the pilotage area or a ship supplying provisions to Thursday Island (whether or not it carries passengers).

This direction is effective immediately and continues until rescinded.

#### **DIRECTION:**

I, Angus Mitchell, General Manager of Maritime Safety Queensland, direct the master of a ship to which this direction applies not to disembark passengers or crew from the ship in the Thursday Island Pilotage Area

#### **Facts and Circumstances**

I am satisfied on the basis of the facts and circumstances stated below that exceptional circumstances exist which justify the giving of this direction in the public interest, in that there is a serious risk to public health:

- The Director General of the World Health Organization declared on 11 March 2020 that the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 could be characterized as a pandemic, and called on countries to take urgent and aggressive action to control it. Refer: <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020>
- The World Health Organisation's *Situation Report No 51* dated 12 March 2020 shows that there have been 118,326 confirmed cases and 47,292 deaths globally, including 37,371 cases and 1,130 deaths outside of China. Refer: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200311-sitrep-51-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=1ba62e57\\_4](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200311-sitrep-51-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=1ba62e57_4)
- A statement from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) published on 27 February 2020 notes that the "global epidemiology of COVID-19 continues to evolve. While there are a decreasing number of cases being reported in mainland China (outside of Hubei province), there is a materially increasing risk of

sustained transmission being established in several other countries". Refer:  
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-0>

- The Queensland Health public information about COVID-19 is available as a fact sheet. Refer:  
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/diseases/coronavirus/public-info-novel-coronavirus/fact-sheet-coronavirus>
- I am satisfied that the ability of the Thursday Island community to test for and treat COVID-19 is limited, that the risk of further spread of the virus once introduced would be increased by the nature of the remote island community, and that these factors warrant the issuing of this direction in the public interest.
- Given the potential adverse community impact should COVID-19 be introduced to Thursday Island, the issuing of this direction has been supported by Queensland Health.

**You are advised that**

- It is an offence under section 191A(8) of the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* to contravene this direction without reasonable excuse. The maximum prescribed penalty for a contravention of this direction is \$66,725 for an individual, and \$333,625 for a corporation.



**Angus Mitchell**  
**General Manager**  
**Maritime Safety Queensland**  
**12 March 2020**