



The Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to create an uncertain and rapidly changing environment.

For example, at 11:59pm on 26 March 2020, a Determination made under the Commonwealth *Biosecurity Act 2015* impacted access to various communities including Woorabinda and Cherbourg. That determination means that ‘non-essential’ people entering those communities must undergo 14 days of self-isolation.

The changing environment has obvious impacts on the way QSNTS undertakes its functions and responsibilities.

QSNTS is committed to, and has prioritised, the health and wellbeing of its constituents, staff and stakeholders.

Within the constraints of complying with Government directives and the advice of the World Health Organisation and Commonwealth and Queensland health bodies, QSNTS will be operating to ensure that it properly services its constituents and fulfils its statutory functions. That will be done subject to some adaptations to meet the extraordinary circumstances.

A decision has been taken to implement procedures to minimise the risk of infection to staff and constituents. Most QSNTS staff members are working from home – they will still be available to make and take calls and to respond to emails.

If a general lockdown is ordered, most QSNTS staff will still be able to work from home.

QSNTS staff will be working diligently to ensure that everything is in readiness for the inevitable increase in work when the COVID-19 emergency eases. In particular, research projects will continue with an emphasis on ‘desktop’ work (work that does not require field trips) and interviews can continue using technology.

All face-to-face meetings involving clients and stakeholders are postponed.

Where possible, meetings will be held using technology. If you are involved in a technology-based meeting, please be patient, listen to, and follow processes explained by the meeting convenor.

The Court is only hearing matters that can be dealt with using technology. Other matters will be adjourned until it is safe for hearings to proceed. Your solicitor will let you know what this means for any matters before the Court in which you are involved.



QSNTS will continue to monitor Governments' announcements and advice concerning COVID-19 and its management, to ensure that arrangements are in place to minimise any adverse impacts on its people, constituents, stakeholders and its operations.

QSNTS will continue to follow the advice of the Governments and their experts to focus on the minimisation of the spread of the virus in the community.

This advisory is also available on the QSNTS web site - <qsnts.com.au> and on the QSNTS Facebook page. We will update it to reflect changes announced to restrictions imposed in response to the health emergency.

