



MEDIA RELEASE

27 March 2020

Council's meeting protocols in response to COVID-19

Alice Springs Town Council wishes to advise the community that, in line with current public health advice, all Council meetings (including Advisory, Council Committee and Ordinary meetings) will take place via teleconferencing and without attendees, until further notice.

CEO Robert Jennings said *"Community safety is paramount and these special measures have been made with our community's health at the forefront of Council's decision making."*

Council has also had to close the Civic Centre front counter (reception only) and Depot (front counter), to the general public, as a precautionary measure for community health. The community can still make contact, and special meetings with Council Officers can still be arranged, by phone, email request or via Council's website.

In order to ensure information continues to flow from Council meetings to the community, Council Officers have prioritised the uploading of recordings to Council's website, including meeting minutes, as soon as practicable following the meeting:

<https://alicesprings.nt.gov.au/governance/meetings>

To further assist, if a community member has a specific topic of enquiry for a meeting, either arising from the papers or another question, they are encouraged to email eaexecutive@astc.nt.gov.au by COB the Friday prior to the relevant Council meeting the following week. These emails must be marked *'Attention to the CEO'* to be raised at a Council meeting. The email also must include the meeting name and date (at which the item is to be raised), a brief outline or a specific question, plus contact details and full name of the community member to enable a response. This information will be recorded during the meeting and will form part of the meeting minutes. Responses from Council will be provided as soon as practicable, following the meeting.

All Council advisory meetings will be conducted via teleconferencing until further notice.

Chairpersons for each meeting can still attend Council (if comfortable to do so) and, along with Council Officers, will observe appropriate social distancing. Council Officers are currently working with committee members on these changes to ensure meeting times and access can continue with minimal disruption.

Effective immediately, this advice applies to:

- Access Advisory Committee
- ASALC Committee
- Australia Day Coordinating Committee
- Cemeteries Committee

- Development Committee
- Environment Committee
- Parks Advisory Committee
- Public Art Committee
- Regional Waste Management Facility Committee
- Risk Management and Audit Committee
- Seniors Coordinating Committee
- Sports Facilities Advisory Committee
- Tourism Events and Promotions Committee
- Youth Action Group

Council staff and operations are still in place and essential operations, such as waste collection, will continue. Council will continue to keep the community informed of operations via its official channels – www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au and www.facebook.com/AliceSpringsTC/

These measures are in effect from 9am, Monday 30 March 2020, in response to the Australian Government's advice regarding social distancing and minimising the risk of infection in our community. Council apologises for any inconvenience caused and appreciates the community's understanding during this time.

Council reminds all community members to stay up to date with official and accurate sources: <https://secure.nt.gov.au/> or <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/> or <https://www.health.gov.au/>.

Note: These special measures have been put in place as a result of COVID-19. All information is correct as at 1pm, Friday 27 March, 2020.

Ends

For further information contact:

Robert Jennings: 0436 528 609 or **Claire Ashard** (Media & Communications): 0439 815 315