



16 June 2020



COVID-19 Operations

Community Update 6



MINING OPERATIONS

Mining operations continue to progress well on-site and all Metro employees and contractors follow the COVID-19 controls.

As at 14 June, over 1.14 M tonnes of bauxite had been mined for 2020 which is ahead of budgeted projections.

To date 15 ships have been loaded with bauxite for shipment to China and loading of the 16th ship is underway.

All previously advised controls at the mine site remain in place and are summarised below:

Existing Bauxite Hills Mine Controls Include:

- All flights in and out of Bamaga airport have stopped and no Metro employees are to go in or out of the NPA region until further notice.
- Travel in and out of Cook Shire is restricted and employees from Hopevale or other Cook Shire communities are not able to travel to work from these areas without stringent self-isolation procedures.
- All Stood down employees are still regarded as Metro Employees and are accruing their usual leave. Their Metro jobs have remained open for them for when COVID-19 ends. Metro paid all stood down employees two-weeks wages and provided a letter stating they had been stood down which allowed them to receive the additional Government COVID-19 subsidy of \$550 per fortnight.
- Face masks are required to be worn on the flights to and from site, and also for any personnel required to share a vehicle while on-site.
- All employees are temperature checked before boarding the plane and are not allowed to board the plane if they have a temperature.
- All employees complete a written health declaration before starting each of their shifts and are not allowed to board the plane if they have shown any signs of respiratory illness in the week leading up to their shift.
- Social distancing and hygiene/hand washing rules are enforced at the mine site.
- Stringent cleaning procedures are in place in all areas of the mine site – accommodation rooms, mess, offices, machinery etc.
- There is a strict isolation and evacuation procedures if anyone becomes sick at the mine with Royal Flying Doctors Service used for transport to the appropriate hospital. Once they leave the mine site, they come under the controls required by the RFDS or the hospital.

PROCESS TO RELAX EXISTING BAUXITE HILLS MINE CONTROLS

Metro has not relaxed any of the COVID-19 controls at this stage but is aware of the removal of the Commonwealth Biosecurity Area restriction on Friday 12 June and is assessing the new situation.

Unfortunately, while the Commonwealth restrictions have been lifted, the State Government is still maintaining higher levels of controls into the Cape York Area.

As of Monday 15th June, Metro was liaising with Qld Health who have confirmed that flights into the NPA region from the Bauxite Hills Mine are **NOT** approved at this stage, as this travel route is not controlled by State agencies to undertake the required checks and reporting.

At this stage, Metro has been advised not to recommence flights into the NPA region.

Once Queensland Health give approval to recommence flights Metro will then work with the Traditional Owners, NPA Regional Council, Bamaga Airport and East Air Aviation to determine a safe process to recommence flights into the Community.

Metro is also working to confirm travel requirements of employees from the Hope Vale Community and will liaise with Cook Shire Council once Queensland Health confirm travel routes, including via Bauxite Hills mine are approved. **You will be made aware when this decision is made and Metro will send out separate notification to all concerned.**

OTHER NEWS:

Liaison Committee Recommencing: Metro will be contacting LC Reps in the next two weeks to confirm what, if any, restrictions they currently have on their travel into and out of community. Once LC Reps are able to travel to and from Cairns without restriction Metro will seek to confirm a new date and time for the postponed LC meeting.

Seed Collections Recommencing: Metro has received required approvals to allow Dr James Hill to travel to Mapoon to pick up native tree seeds collected from that community. Dates James will be in Mapoon for seed collection will be confirmed and provided to relevant contacts. Injinoo collections await confirmation of restrictions being lifted and travel logistics finalised. Injinoo collection details will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Cultural Heritage Monitors are currently working on-site as required during all vegetation clearing works. These Monitors are appointed in accordance with requirements of the Heritage Body, the Seven Rivers Aboriginal Corporation.

Once again, Metro thanks all employees and community representatives for their ongoing help and understanding during this time.

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Liaison Officer for your area:

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