



# Coronavirus [COVID-19]

# SAVING LIVES SAVING JOBS

Summary of significant COVID-19  
responses in the Northern Territory



Please note the table is not a complete list of all of the actions taken by the NT Government, but a summary of the key actions taken to respond up to 13 July 2020. Since the declaration of a public health emergency under section 48 of the Public and Environmental Health Act 2011 in relation to COVID-19, the NT Chief Health Officer has made, and updated, a number of directions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Northern Territory. Until 13 July 2020, 44 directions, covering a wide range of issues have been issued – not all are captured in this document.

## Summary of significant COVID-19 policy and funding responses in the Northern Territory

No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
1	Local business-boosting voucher scheme extended	13 July 2020	The NT Government will extend City of Darwin’s successful discount voucher scheme across the NT. A funding pool of \$1 million is available to local governments to take part in the scheme, with up to \$200,000 available to each local council matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
2	Supporting tourism businesses: VEEP Round 4 open	2 July 2020	To help local tourism operators rebound from the impacts of COVID-19, grants of up to \$50,000 are available under the Visitor Experience Enhancement Program. Applicants are required to provide matched funding.
3	Supporting local businesses, community organisations and local jobs	29 June 2020	Over \$10 million in Immediate Work Grants and Business Improvement Scheme works has been approved across the NT as part of the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan.  The NT Government has also announced its signing off of the Commonwealth’s HomeBuilder program which provides eligible owner-occupiers with grants of \$25,000.
4	Liquor licensing changes	26 June 2020	Director of Liquor Licensing repealed both the BDR and Commercial Passenger Vehicles bans.
5	\$53 million to unlock infrastructure jobs in the NT	22 June 2020	The Commonwealth and NT Governments support infrastructure construction jobs across the NT by jointly investing \$53 million to deliver shovel-ready infrastructure projects and urgent road safety upgrades. This investment will help the NT economy in its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
6	The Territory is the Answer – Tourism NT’s national tourism campaign kicks off	20 June 2020	Tourism NT’s national campaign launches to encourage Australians to book holidays in the NT.
7	Tourism Voucher Scheme to support Territory Businesses and save jobs	11 June 2020	More than 26,000 vouchers worth \$200 available from 1 July for Territorians to use towards a Territory tourism experience, tour, accommodation, hire car or recreational fishing charter, so long as the spend is matched with their own money.

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
8	Establishment of the Central Australian Economic Reconstruction Committee	3 June 2020	<p>The Central Australian Economic Reconstruction Committee complements the Territory Economic Reconstruction Committee and Team Territory. Membership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dale Wakefield – Chair, Central Australian Economic Reconstruction Committee</li> <li>• Danial Rochford – CEO, Tourism Central Australia</li> <li>• Neil McLeod – Chair, Chamber of Commerce – Central Australia</li> <li>• Justine Petrick – Local businesswoman</li> <li>• Chris Neck – Local businessman</li> <li>• Paul Ah Chee – Local businessman</li> <li>• Steve Brouwer – Local businessman</li> </ul>
9	Start of Stage 3 Roadmap begins	1 June 2020	<p>Stage 3 Roadmap to a New Normal commences at 12 noon - includes safer indoor activities guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resumption of indoor sporting matches, with spectators</li> <li>• Reopening of gaming and entertainment venues, pubs and clubs without the need to consume food</li> <li>• Amusement parks and recreation centres.</li> </ul>
10	Changes to quarantine arrangements to put Territorians first	28 May 2020	<p>From 15 June the Territory transitions from mandatory, monitored quarantine to mandatory, self-quarantine.</p>
11	More NT Parks and Reserves to open for June long weekend	27 May 2020	<p>With the lifting of biosecurity restrictions on 5 June, all NT parks and reserves (other than those closed for seasonal reasons) will be opened to Territorians.</p>
12	Safe Stay Plan for Remote Community Visitors	27 May 2020	<p>A repurposed accommodation facility in Darwin provides a safe place for visitors from remote communities to stay during the COVID-19 pandemic. The facility, managed by Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation provides up to 50 short-stay beds, meals, laundry, and ablution facilities.</p>

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
13	Team Territory	27 May 2020	<p>The members of Team Territory are announced. Team Territory is tasked with advising the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission on its work. Membership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare Martin (Co-Chair)</li> <li>• Dick Guit (Co-Chair)</li> <li>• Steve Rowe – CEO, SRA Information Technology</li> <li>• Wendy Morton – Former Executive Director, NT Council of Social Services</li> <li>• Angela Tomazos – Managing Partner, NAB Business, Agri &amp; Specialised Banking Northern Territory</li> <li>• Michael Hannon (Snr) – Chairman, Hannon Group</li> <li>• Adrian Brown – Managing Director, Bilba Group</li> <li>• Simon Smith – Owner, Girraween Nursery and The Plantsmith</li> <li>• Erina Early – Secretary, United Workers Union</li> <li>• Mick Burns – Owner, Porosus P/L</li> <li>• Sam Strohmayer – Chief Operating Officer, Glencore Zinc Assets Australia</li> <li>• Lyndon Frearson – Managing Director, Ekistica</li> <li>• Trisha Morton-Thomas – Filmmaker</li> <li>• Land Council CEOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jo Martin-Jard – Central Land Council</li> <li>• Marion Scrymgour – Northern Land Council</li> <li>• Mark Hewitt – Anindilyakwa Land Council</li> <li>• Andrew Tipungwuti – Tiwi Land Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14	Small Business Survival Fund starts rebound	25 May 2020	The \$50 million Small Business Survival Fund is closed to new applications after assisting 1650 Territory Businesses during the pandemic. A remaining \$10 million is allocated to provide Rebound Support Grants to approved applicants.
15	Supporting our Tourism Operators: Time to be a Territorian Campaign	24 May 2020	An intra-Territory campaign encouraging locals to explore the Territory to support our tourism industry once the biosecurity restrictions were removed on June 5.

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
16	Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission announced	22 May 2020	<p>A Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission was announced which will have the responsibility for providing advice to government on accelerating the Territory's economic rebound and positioning the Territory for growth. A Green Paper on the Territory's recovery – Operation Rebound – developed to help guide the Commission's work. The Commission has been asked to provide an interim report by late-July and a final report in November. The membership includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul Henderson (Co-Chair), former Chief Minister</li> <li>• Andrew Liveris, (Co-Chair), former Dow Chemical Chairman and CEO</li> <li>• Martin Parkinson, former Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</li> <li>• Romilly Madew, CEO of Infrastructure Australia</li> <li>• Gail Kelly, corporate leader, board director and former CEO of Westpac</li> <li>• Eytan Lenko, technology entrepreneur and CEO of Beyond Zero Emissions</li> <li>• Professor Mick Dodson, NT Treaty Commissioner</li> <li>• Gary Higgins, former Leader of the Opposition and retiring Member for Daly</li> </ul>
17	No active COVID-19 cases in the Northern Territory	21 May 2020	<p>There are no active cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Northern Territory after the remaining patient in the Northern Territory was cleared overnight. This person had contracted COVID-19 while on overseas deployment with the Australian Defence Force.</p> <p>All 30 of the cases of COVID-19 diagnosed in the Northern Territory were connected to interstate or overseas travel.</p>
18	Start of Stage 2 Roadmap begins	15 May 2020	<p>Stage 2 Roadmap to a New Normal commences at 12 noon - includes safer indoor activities guidelines.</p>
19	Supporting schools to support boarding school students	8 May 2020	<p>Over 1000 boarding students returned to 86 Northern Territory communities from boarding schools. The Department of Education's Emergency Management Committee approved the first tranche of payments to 18 self-identified schools across the NT to support these students. \$520 790 will be provided for these schools to be able to provide devices, additional teaching resources and a physical location for these students to learn in. Additional funding may be required again in the future. A second round of additional funding totalling \$213,620 currently being considered.</p>
20	\$10 000 grants to NT childcare operators	6 May 2020	<p>One-off grants of up to \$10 000 to Northern Territory childcare operators to support them through the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. These grants are to offset costs associated with food, cleaning materials and minor maintenance. They will be available until 22 June 2020, or until exhausted.</p>

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
21	Hygiene packs to all NTG schools	5 May 2020	\$0.322 million for procuring and delivering additional hygiene supplies to schools in May 2020, including hand sanitiser, liquid soap, tissues, antibacterial wipes and refillable water bottles.
22	Tourism Rebound Taskforce Established for Industry Recovery	5 May 2020	<p>The NT Government establishes a Tourism Rebound Taskforce made up of national experts to provide strategic and practical advice on a potential recovery roadmap for the local tourism industry which has been hard hit by COVID-19 measures.</p> <p>The Taskforce will provide a national and international perspective on forging a pathway to recovery, bringing together leaders from across the tourism sector with expertise in accommodation and hospitality, drive tourism, aviation and touring.</p> <p>The nine member Tourism Rebound Taskforce is chaired by Tourism NT's Chair of the Board of Commissioners, Mr Michael Bridge.</p>
23	Business Hardship Package Applications Open	2 May 2020	<p>Eligible Territory businesses (with total turnover less than \$50 million per annum) that can demonstrate hardship due to COVID-19 can apply to be listed on a central Business Hardship Register which will then enable businesses to apply for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waiving or deferring payment of payroll tax</li> <li>• reduction on utilities bills where offered</li> <li>• rate reductions where offered</li> </ul> <p>Incentives for commercial landlords to reduce rents and other relief which may be offered from time to time.</p>
24	Suicide Prevention Community Grants	1 May 2020	The co-ordination of mental health support during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency has been positive, and Suicide Prevention Community Grants will provide further support to assist the ongoing wellbeing of vulnerable Territorians as the community adjusts to the new normal.
25	Northern Territory parks and reserves start to reopen	1 May 2020	<p>Northern Territory parks and reserves will start to reopen from Friday 1 May. This decision did not apply to Commonwealth-owned parks, which are a matter for the Commonwealth Government in consultation with traditional owners.</p> <p>Parks that are in areas designated under the Commonwealth's Biosecurity Act 2015, will start to re-open for people residing in those areas. Certain areas of parks that are not able to open because of other environmental and safety factors remain closed.</p>

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
26	Directions for Close Public Places, Services and Activities	1 May 2020	In line with commencement of Stage One of the Territory's <i>Roadmap to the New Normal</i> , Chief Health Officer directions lifts restrictions on outdoor places, services and activities and these places, services and activities may reopen from noon Friday 1 May.
27	Directions for Physical Distancing	1 May 2020	Chief Health Officer directions – directs persons who are outdoors to comply with the physical distancing principles as published from time to time on coronavirus.nt.gov.au
28	Directions for Revocation of Gatherings	1 May 2020	Chief Health Officer directions – lifts the restrictions for the number of people gathering, whether indoors or outdoors.
29	Territory's <i>Roadmap to the New Normal</i> released	30 April 2020	<p>Stage one adjustments will commence from noon Friday 1 May, for simple and safe outdoor activities where physical distancing can be maintained at all times.</p> <p>Stage two activities can commence from noon, Friday 15 May, and include the reopening of certain businesses, places, services and activities such as beauty salons (excluding facial treatments), places of worship or dining in at restaurants, cafes or bars (with restrictions).</p> <p>From noon, Friday 5 June, it is expected that businesses that are still required to be closed may reopen such as casinos, cinemas and nightclubs.</p>
30	Legislative Assembly returned for a special session to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic	24 April 2020	<p>The NT Legislative Assembly returned for a special session to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. All legislation was introduced and debated in the one day to further strengthen the Northern Territory Response to COVID-19. Legislation introduced included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tenancies Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> to implement additional measures to support Territory landlords and tenants adversely affected by COVID-19; Modification Notice under <i>Business Tenancies (Fair Dealings) Act 2003</i> commenced 28 April 2020. Modification Notice under <i>Residential Tenancies Act 1999</i> with effect from 18 March 2020</li> <li>• <i>Public and Environmental Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> to implement tough fines on those who spit and cough on workers and provides power to the Chief Health Officer to charge a fee to a person or class of persons for any action taken under section 52(1) of the Act that requires the person or class to remain quarantined at a place if they enter the Territory from a place outside the Territory</li> <li>• <i>Utilities Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> to help with the cost of power, water and sewerage for businesses.</li> </ul> <p>The Government also moved a motion to convene the special Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearings for one day a month.</p>

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
31	Amendments to planning rules and approvals	20 April 2020	<p>The NT Government made amendments to planning rules and approvals during the coronavirus pandemic. Implemented exceptions and amendments related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hours of operation for food and retail businesses;</li> <li>• Medical and health facilities;</li> <li>• Working from home; and</li> <li>• Projects related to the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan</li> </ul>
32	Community gaming machine tax rates and thresholds amended	20 April 2020	<p>Community gaming machine tax rates and thresholds returned to 2016 levels from 1 April 2020. All unpaid community gaming machine taxes, community benefit levy, and casino taxes for clubs, hotels and casinos waived for the period of March 2020.</p> <p>This was implemented to provide businesses with additional cash flow at a time when they need it the most – allowing them to keep employees on and to help deal with the unplanned halt to trading.</p>
33	Second stage of the \$50 million Small Business Survival Fund	16 April 2020	<p>Second stage of the \$50 million Small Business Survival Fund.</p> <p>\$20 million of this fund will go towards ongoing payments to help cover operational costs, such as support to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cover regular costs such as rent and utilities</li> <li>• make invoice payments</li> <li>• keeping people in work who may not be eligible for the Federal Government's JobKeeper payment, such as some casuals, recently employed workers, and Visa holder workers.</li> </ul>
34	Increased funding to the Home Improvement Scheme announced (round 2) - \$70 million	16 April 2020	<p>An increase of \$70 million to the Home Improvement Scheme. A \$6000 grant for Territory homeowners and property owners who contribute \$2000, and a \$4000 grant with a \$1000 contribution.</p>
35	Directions for Potentially Infected Persons	16 April 2020	<p>Chief Health Officer directs a person who is potentially infected with COVID-19 to travel to a hospital or another place, for example, the Howard Springs isolation area, to undergo testing for infection with COVID-19. These Directions also require the potentially infected person to remain isolated at the place until notified by the CHO or a CHO delegate that the person is no longer required to remain isolated.</p>
36	Remote Passenger Transport Support	14 April 2020	<p>Provided grant funding to Centre Bush Bus to continue to operate and provide critical passenger and freight transport relating to COVID-19 in Central Australia.</p>

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37	Hotline for Border Control measures established	14 April 2020	Exemption Hotline for Border Control measures established in the Department of Health to assess urgent and compassionate requests for travel interstate.
38	Critical goods to remote schools	10 April 2020	The Department of Education's Logistics Team coordinate an ordering system for remote and very remote schools and staff in biosecurity areas to assist in freighting in essential food and household items. 135 school staff from 33 very remote schools responded with requests for over 4400 items. These items included toilet paper, milk, spring water, meat, liquid hand soap, frozen mixed vegetables, household cleaning items, pasta and other essential cooking items. All orders were delivered between 10 April and 19 April 2020.
39	Students attending Term 2 – Monday, 20 April is deemed compulsory	9 April 2020	Education in the Northern Territory in Term 2 is deemed compulsory. All students are expected to attend school from day one, Term 2 – Monday, 20 April. Expansion of youth services, including outreach services, one-to-one mentoring, interactive online activities, and food programs to support at-risk young people and vulnerable families.
40	Keep Kids Learning	9 April 2020	<p>The NT Learning Commitment project included the development and distribution of the 'Keep Kids Learning' hard copy learning materials (following announcement, approximately \$419 000 spent to produce materials) which were made available for every government and non-government student in Transition to Year 10 across the Northern Territory, as well as materials and guidance for preschool students and parents and carers as part of the Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program. Distribution of Term 2 Learning materials commenced 9 April 2020.</p> <p>This was accompanied by online support for families through the development of the 'Learning Together' website and the launch of the eLearn site for leaders and teachers to access platform support through the establishment of a 'Connecting Learners' team to support online delivery.</p>
41	Public Accounts Committee to Provide Further Oversight on COVID-19 Response announced	9 April 2020	<p>The NT Treasurer announces that the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) will meet monthly to examine the NT Government's ongoing response to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Committee will have the opportunity to review the public health measures that have been implemented, the enforcement of these health measures and the business and jobs survival strategies put in place to support Territorians.</p>
42	Local councils asked to provide at least six months of rate relief	8 April 2020	NT Chief Minister has written to local councils asking them to provide at least six months of rate relief through a three-month waiver.

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43	Remote Community Schools Package announced	8 April 2020	As a further measure to prevent transmission of coronavirus to these vulnerable populations, the NT Government unveiled a Remote Community Schools Package, to incentivise teachers and school staff not to leave their communities for the upcoming term break. The Remote Community Schools Package is available to all NT Public Sector employees employed in schools and who reside in the designated area outlined by the biosecurity measures in response to COVID-19.
44	\$180 million in additional support to Territory businesses as part of the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan	8 April 2020	The NT Government deliver \$180 million in additional support to Territory businesses as part of the Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan, including payroll tax, waivers or deferrals (depending on size of the business), reducing utilities bills, providing incentives for commercial landlords to reduce rents, and working with councils to reduce rates. For Territory businesses with a turnover below \$50 million, that demonstrate substantial hardship due to the coronavirus crisis, the NT Government will waive payroll tax for six months for smaller and medium-sized businesses, (those with total Australia wide wages below \$7.5 million) and defer it for six months for large businesses (those with Australia wide wages above \$7.5 million) and reduce power, water and sewerage bills by 50 per cent for regulated customers for six months (for regulated utility tariffs). This support will be effective for six months from 1 April, and businesses can apply from 1 May.
45	Education Stimulus Package	6 April 2020	NT Government announces \$10.8 million Education Stimulus package to support infrastructure construction in schools.
46	Expanded Certificate of Compliance process	5 April 2020	Expanded the Certificate of Compliance process to allow almost all development types to be submitted through photographs and a declaration rather than a site inspection, subject to Development Assessment Services Manager approval.
47	Liquor licensing changes	4 April 2020	Director of Liquor Licensing banned taxi, private hire and commercial passenger vehicles (CPV) from going through drive through bottle shops as a community protection measure.
48	NT Government announce that all School Council staff will continue to be paid	4 April 2020	In the event that schools are to temporarily close, other than for standard scheduled stand down periods, the NT Government announces that all School Council staff will continue to be paid, providing job certainty to more than 1700 casual staff employed directly by NT Government schools.
49	'Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan' works exemption	3 April 2020	Amended the NT Planning Scheme to allow physical improvement associated with an existing use to occur without consent in certain instances where the works have been undertaken in association with the NT Government's 'Jobs Rescue and Recovery Plan'.

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
50	Relocation of COVID-19 patients from Royal Darwin Hospital to Howard Springs	2 April 2020	People with the virus, who do not need to be cared for at Royal Darwin Hospital, will be moved to the former Manigurr-Ma workers' village, which has already been used as a coronavirus quarantine camp earlier this year. As well as having the drive through pandemic clinic, it will have individuals who need to be isolated from the community diagnosed positive with COVID-19, but do not need hospital care.
51	Opening of Ross Facility, Alice Springs	1 April 2020	Opening of the Ross Facility, a 20-bed quarantine facility in Alice Springs, for people suspected of having COVID-19 but not requiring hospitalisation.
52	Opening of Gove Pandemic Clinic	31 March 2020	Opening of Gove Pandemic Clinic.
53	Liquor licensing changes	30 March 2020	Director of Liquor Licensing introduced a further BDR element for take away outlets to ask where people intend consuming their alcohol to ensure public gathering restrictions are met.
54	Directions for Gatherings and further closure of services, activities and public places	30 March 2020	<p>Chief Health Officer Directions restricts the amount of people permitted to gather to 10 people outdoors and 10 people indoors or 1 person per 4 square metres.</p> <p>The operator of a vessel must not allow a gathering of more than 10 people on the vessel, including the operator, and must not allow the density of persons present to be more than 1 person per 4 square metres.</p> <p>Directions to Close Public Places, Services and Activities closed skate parks, public play grounds, and outdoor gym equipment. Weddings limited to 5 people and funerals limited to 10 people.</p> <p>Sporting activity rule introduced that no more than 2 people may exercise together unless they ordinarily reside together or the activity is provided by a business outdoors and no more than 10 people are present, including the trainer.</p>
55	\$5 million Worker and Wellbeing Fund announced	30 March 2020	<p>The NT Government established a \$5 million Worker &amp; Wellbeing Fund to support local workers struggling with the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>The Worker &amp; Wellbeing Fund's main goals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• help people access the range of wellbeing and other counselling or support services that are available</li> <li>• help people navigate the welfare system and access income and any other financial support available</li> <li>• help workers who have lost their job find new employment opportunities fast – such as guiding people to job matching services like the Territory Jobs Hub assist Territorians who require access to accommodation and other essentials.</li> </ul>

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56	Directions for border restrictions and infected persons	28 March 2020	<p>Chief Health Officer Directions for Northern Territory Border Restrictions. International travellers must now quarantine for 14 days at a place directed by the CHO or an authorised officer.</p> <p>The Directions for Infected Persons required that a person confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 is required to travel directly to a hospital, or another place for medical treatment, specified by an authorised officer or health practitioner and must remain isolated in that place until notified in writing, that the person no longer needs to remain isolated.</p>
57	Announcement on public bus travel to protect against the spread of COVID-19	27 March 2020	<p>The Northern Territory Government and bus contractors enacted measures on public buses to protect against the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Posters were displayed in all public buses to convey appropriate social distancing measures while traveling. Bus travel free across the Territory's public network, eliminating the need for cash transactions.</p>
58	Opening of Pandemic Clinic in Alice Springs	27 March 2020	Opening of Pandemic Clinic in Alice Springs.
59	Extension of Operation of Declaration of Public Health Emergency	27 March 2020	The Minister for Health extended the Public Health Emergency for a period of 90 days.
60	\$50 million Small Business Survival Fund announced	27 March 2020	<p>From Friday 27 March, under the \$50 million Small Business Survival Fund, eligible businesses will be able to apply for two payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an Immediate Survival Payment of between \$2000 and \$50,000 to help offset the immediate cost pressures on businesses</li> <li>• a Rapid Adaption Payment of between \$1000 and \$5000 to assist businesses make the necessary changes it chooses to help adapt to the new operating environment.</li> </ul>
61	Medical and health related exemption for planning approvals	27 March 2020	Amended the NT Planning Scheme to remove any need for approval under the <i>Planning Act 1999</i> for "the temporary use and/or development of land for medical or health related activities associated with the need to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic, as advised necessary by a department or institutional establishment of the Crown."
62	Parks and Reserves closed	26 March 2020	NT Parks and Reserves are closed to camping and multi-day use.

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
63	Ministerial Direction to Development Consent Authority	26 March 2020	The NT Planning Minister issues 'Directions' under section 85(1) of the <i>Planning Act 1999</i> , which temporarily lift restrictions that apply to people working from home, where the business is operating reasonably and in response to COVID-19.
64	Extra funding for schools for additional cleaning	26 March 2020	\$1.7 million in grants issued to schools in Terms 1 and 2 to assist to cover the costs of additional or specialist cleaning expenditure in the COVID-19 environment. This allows schools to enhance their current cleaning arrangements to ensure regular disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces throughout the school day.
65	Education Working Group established	26 March 2020	The NT Government established a working group that includes the Department of Education, the Australian Education Union NT, the NT Principals' Association, NT COGSO and the Office of the Commissioner of Public Employment to work through options for school staff as the first term break approaches. As a result of these discussions, the NT Government decides the final four days of this school term – Monday, 6 April to Thursday, 9 April – will be professional development days for staff to prepare for the continued delivery of education in Term 2.
66	Remote Communication Increased	26 March 2020	The NT Government keep the Remote Travel Hotline to provide information to the community about restrictions on travel. Targeted Covid-19 messaging in languages delivered to remote communities and residents. Funding as required and from within.
67	Designated biosecurity areas announced	26 March 2020	From 11.59 pm on Thursday 26 March, the Commonwealth Government declared regional and remote areas of the Northern Territory as "designated biosecurity areas" and further updated this advice on 7 April 2020 to include Yulara, and exclude Mataranka from the Designated Areas. Anyone wishing to enter a designated area without an exemption must quarantine for 14 days in an excluded area in the NT prior to re-entering or demonstrate they are an approved remote essential worker.
68	Liquor licensing changes	25 March 2020	Director of Liquor Licensing allows restaurants to serve limited alcohol as part of take away conditions to keep hospitality industry open.
69	Next stage of the jobs rescue plan announced – Jobs Hub platform	25 March 2020	The Territory Jobs Hub platform was launched to connect Territory employers with Territory jobseekers who have been affected by the economic impacts of the coronavirus crisis.

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
70	\$2 million Creative Industries Sector Immediate Response and Resilience program	24 March 2020	<p>The Creative Industries Sector Immediate Response and Resilience (CISIRR) program is a grant funding program focused on delivering business continuity and practical support to the creative and cultural sector.</p> <p>The CISIRR program has four categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program \$200 000</li> <li>2. Digital Adaptation Program \$200 000 (closed 17 April 2020)</li> <li>3. Territory Arts Projects \$400 000 (two rounds) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round 1 - closed 23 April 2020</li> <li>• Round 2 - opened 25 May 2020 – closes 10 June 2020</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Channel NT Virtual Territory \$200 000 (closed 11 May 2020)</li> </ol> <p>\$1 million allocated to the screen sector as part of the Screen Industry Support and Content Development Program. This funding will support screen content development, essential upskilling of the industry and development of production ready content through three funding rounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round 1 – opens 1 June 2020 – closes 29 June 2020</li> <li>• Round 2 – opening 31 August 2020 – closes 28 September 2020</li> <li>• Round 3 – opens 11 January 2021 – closes 8 February 2021.</li> </ul>
71	<i>Emergency Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> amends the <i>Public and Environmental Health Act 2011</i>	24 March 2020	<p>The <i>Emergency Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i> amends the <i>Public and Environmental Health Act 2011</i> to allow declarations of a public health emergency for a period of up to 90 days instead of the current five-day limit. The Bill also amends the <i>Information Act 2002</i> in order to allow government agencies to collect and share information to aid in the Territory's response and management of the public health emergency. The changes allow government agencies to operate in the same way as currently exists under the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i> that allows the Chief Health Officer to respond to the declared public health emergency of COVID-19.</p>
72	\$2 million support package for minimum essential Regular Passenger Transport aviation services	24 March 2020	<p>The NT Government delivers a \$2 million support package to retain minimum essential Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) aviation services, ensuring the continued supply of essential goods and services for communities.</p>
73	Opening of Katherine Hospital Pandemic Clinic	23 March 2020	<p>Opening of Katherine Hospital Pandemic Clinic.</p>

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No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
74	Direction of closure of certain businesses to the public	23 March 2020	Directions issued by Chief Health Officer for closure of certain businesses to the public and to cease certain business and other activities. Designated entertainment venues and other similar venues closed to the public. Also directed that a public proprietor of a business that serves food or beverages must not serve any food or beverages to members of the public for consumption in or on the premises of the business or, if the premises are adjacent to an indoor food court, in that food court. Further closures of public places, services and activities were directed on 25 March 2020 including indoor markets, beauty therapist, tattooing and real estate open house inspections.
75	Howard Springs drive-through pandemic clinic opened	23 March 2020	The Howard Springs drive-through pandemic clinic is opened. Advice to the public is to call through to the Public Health Unit and you will be provided with advice on whether you should attend Royal Darwin Hospital or go to the Howard Springs site to be tested.
76	Courtroom appearances either via audio-visual link or telephone - Jury trials suspended	22 March 2020	Sitting Northern Territory judges and parties in the courtroom now appearing via either audio-visual link or telephone. All jury trials suspended until 5 June 2020.
77	Fast-track the current police recruit squad	22 March 2020	NT Government announces that the current police recruit squad will be fast-tracked, with the squad of 59 constables graduating six weeks early (17 April 2020) - putting more resources on the ground sooner with a view to assist with the COVID-19 response. The squad will be deployed to Alice Springs (30), Katherine (19) and Tennant Creek (10). Also announced an additional Accelerated Recruitment Program (ARP) of 30 police to commence mid-year.
78	Implementation of border restrictions and quarantine requirements for persons entering the Northern Territory	21 March 2020	Implementation of border restrictions and arrival requirements in response to the increasing threat of the coronavirus. From 4.00pm on Tuesday 24 March, the Northern Territory implemented strict border controls for all access points - by road, rail, air and sea. People who arrive in the Northern Territory from interstate or overseas are required to quarantine for 14 days.
79	Minister Direction to Development Consent Authority	20 March 2020	The NT Planning Minister issues 'Directions' under section 85(1) of the Planning Act 1999, which temporarily lift restrictions that limit the hours of operation or times of delivery for a food or retail business for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
80	Suspension of the NT Budget	20 March 2020	All governments have agreed to suspend the delivery of their budgets until after the Commonwealth delivers its budget in October 2020 due to the difficulty in making fiscal and economic forecasts at this current time. The Northern Territory Government budget will be delivered in November 2020.

## Summary of significant COVID-19 policy and funding responses in the Northern Territory

No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
81	NT Chief Health Officer directions on social distancing	20 March 2020	<p>Chief Health Officer directions issued outlining restrictions on gathering and social distancing, with no more than one person per four square metres of floor space, and no more than 5 people at a wedding, or 10 people at a funeral.</p> <p>The restrictions on weddings and funerals came into operation 25 March. The general restriction on gatherings of no more than 10 people came into operation on 30 March. The one person per four square metre direction was made on 22 March.</p>
82	Early Childhood Education and Care Services suspension of assessment and rating visits and other regulatory activities	18 March 2020	<p>Assessment and rating visits will not be conducted by the regulatory authority while early childhood education and services are preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The regulatory authority has deferred all assessment and rating visits.</p> <p>The regulatory authority has also suspended all fees associated with regulatory activities.</p>
83	Freeze on all government fees and charges	18 March 2020	All Government fees and charges indexed under the 2009 Revenue Units Act frozen (no increase due to indexation) until 1 July 2021. Regulated electricity, sewerage and water tariffs will be frozen and will not increase on 1 July 2020, as they otherwise would have.
84	\$65 million Jobs Rescue & Recovery Plan	18 March 2020	<p>The NT Government announced a first round \$65 million Jobs Rescue &amp; Recovery Plan to protect Territorians from the deep economic impacts of the coronavirus. This is comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Improvement Scheme</li> <li>• Business Structural Adjustment package</li> <li>• Immediate Works Grants Package</li> <li>• Home Improvement Scheme - a \$6,000 grant for Territory homeowners and property owners who contribute \$2000, and a \$4000 grant with a \$1000 contribution</li> </ul>
85	Public health emergency declared	18 March 2020	Minister for Health under section 48 of the Public Health and Environmental Health Act 2011, declared a public health emergency for the whole of the NT arising out of the serious public health risk from COVID-19.
86	Changes to forthcoming NT Government supported events announced	16 March 2020	In response to the Commonwealth Government's COVID-19 advice against holding events of 500 people or more, the NT Government announced changes to its list of events over the coming months. Decisions around upcoming events held in partnership with the NT Government will be made in conjunction with the governing bodies of the partners involved.

## Summary of significant COVID-19 policy and funding responses in the Northern Territory

No.	Initiative	Date Announced	Description
87	Remote Travel Hotline established	16 March 2020	NT Government established a Remote Travel Hotline to provide information to the community about restrictions on travel.
88	Event restrictions	15 March 2020	NT Government provided a risk assessment tool that businesses and organisations can use to judge the clinical risk associated with their event and whether the event can proceed under the new requirements.
89	Remote health workers provided with a pandemic management public health plan	11 March 2020	Remote healthcare workers in the Territory are delivered a pandemic management public health plan to combat potential cases of coronavirus.
90	Pandemic clinic opened at Royal Darwin Hospital	10 March 2020	The Territory's first coronavirus pandemic clinic is opened at Royal Darwin Hospital.
91	Local Court visits to remote communities suspended	14 February 2020	The Local Court suspended all remote circuits immediately. Stakeholders were invited to a meeting on 16 February to discuss the alternative use of video solutions for court appearances.
92	Immediate Tourism Resilience Plan announced	10 February 2020	NT Government announces the \$2 million "Immediate Tourism Resilience Plan" in response to the impact of the Australian bushfire season and COVID-19.
93	NT and Commonwealth agree to use Howard Springs facility for Australians evacuated from China	7 February 2020	Following a request from the Commonwealth Government, the NT Government worked in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government regarding the use of the Manigurr-ma accommodation village at Howard Springs for repatriating Australians returning from China. The plane arrived 8 February into RAAF Base Darwin and was met by Australian Border force, AUSMAT and the Australian Defence Force.
94	Declaration and Notification of Notifiable Disease Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection	6 February 2020	Minister for Health under section 6 of the <i>Notifiable Diseases Act 1981</i> , declared Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection (the <i>Novel coronavirus</i> ), to be a notifiable disease for the purposes of the Act.