



KING ISLAND COUNCIL
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3 June 2020

Mr Peter Gutwein
Premier of Tasmania
Level 9, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Premier

The King Island and Flinders Island Councils congratulate your Government on the leadership and positive action taken to manage and contain the COVID-19 emergency and the cautious steps you are now taking to re-open travel around mainland Tasmania.

Our Councils understand this success is driven by decisions based on sound public health advice. The success in preventing COVID-19 coming to our Islands, when there were active cases in Launceston and on the north west coast, is due to consistent emergency management directions from the State Controller and strong action and support by our frontline emergency services and our communities.

Following your announcement of relaxed intrastate travel yesterday, our Councils and our emergency services are receiving numerous public requests for clarification of intrastate travel restrictions to our Islands. There is growing community opinion expressed in social media that these restrictions are not justified on health grounds and are unfairly treating island residents and businesses.

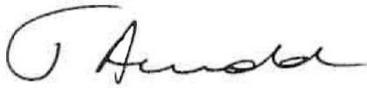
The restrictions have caused many residents to defer off-island medical appointments, while businesses are unable to access normal off-island support services because they don't meet the essential traveller requirements. Our tourism businesses and airports are continuing to suffer financially and need to know when travel restrictions will be lifted.

We are aware that the State Controller reviews the King and Flinders Islands travel directions weekly, and expect that the public health advice supporting changed travel on mainland Tasmania will form part of this week's review.

We will accept the decision of the State Controller. However, in the event the restrictions are not lifted on Saturday, we would ask for a detailed public explanation so our communities can understand the need and rationale for them remaining in place and an estimated timeline as to when you think they may be lifted.

We look forward to your advice.

Yours faithfully



Mayor
King Island Council



Mayor
Flinders Island Council

Cc State Controller and Deputy State Controller, Director of Public Health

