

Diamantina Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG)
Statement No. 1

Yesterday, 23 March 2020, the Diamantina Shire Local Disaster Management Group Meeting held its first meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic commenced.

The LDMG comprises representatives from Diamantina Shire Council, Qld Health, Qld Police Service, Qld Fire and Emergency Services, State Emergency Services, Qld Ambulance Service and Qld Rural Fire Service.

The Chairman of the LDMG, Cr Geoff Morton, has activated the LDMG to the 'Stand Up' level following discussion amongst its members, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LDMG's focus is ensuring the health of the shire residents.

The Chairman urges all tourists who are still planning a trip to Birdsville or Bedourie to cancel these plans for 2020. He said 'We love you, but we will love you even more in 2021.' We don't have the sophisticated health care system to cope with an outbreak of COVID-19 in our remote towns. The desert crossing to the west of Birdsville is closed indefinitely. Please follow the direction of the Prime Minister to cancel all non-essential travel. We are putting the health of our community first this year, and we don't apologise for that.

All local events have been cancelled in the shire and we hope that the organisers of the Big Red Bash and Birdsville Races make a decision on their events shortly which puts our communities first. While we appreciate these are significant decisions for these events, ultimately the LDMG want our community to be safe.

For locals, we ask that they reconsider any non-essential travel out of the shire as there may be a point in time where we will ask you to self-isolate upon your return.

The LDMG will continue to monitor the advices from the Australian and Queensland government and consider their application and impacts to the Diamantina Shire.

Things are changing frequently and the LDMG will meet again next Monday.



Cr Geoff Morton
Chair Local Disaster Management Group