



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Contact:

The Honourable Roger Cook MLA
Acting Premier of Western Australia
13 Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Acting Premier

CONTROLLED BORDER ARRANGEMENTS – TASMANIA AND THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TO MOVE TO EXTREME RISK CATEGORY

I am writing to provide updated advice on Western Australia's (WA's) controlled border arrangements with Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

Tasmania

On 31 December 2021, the Acting Chief Health Officer wrote to you with advice that, with respect to Western Australia's (WA's) controlled border arrangements, Tasmania should move from the 'medium risk' to the 'high risk' category. This was in response to the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 in Tasmania and the increasing notification of the Omicron variant in these cases. Since 31 December 2021, there has been a rapid increase in the number of cases in Tasmania, with 428 cases reported on 01 January 2022, 702 cases on 04 January 2022 and 867 cases today. The 5-day rolling average is now 572 cases per day.

Therefore, in accordance with my advice on 10 August 2021 on the revised trigger points for controlled borders (Attachment 2 to previous advice), I recommend, as Chief Health Officer, that Tasmania move from the 'high risk' to 'extreme risk' category.

Australian Capital Territory

The ACT is also currently deemed to be a 'high risk' jurisdiction. As with Tasmania, the ACT has experienced a very rapid rise in cases over the past week. Since 31 December 2021, ACT have reported 448 cases on 01 January 2022, 926 cases on 04 January 2022 and 810 case today (05 January 2022). The 5-day rolling average number of cases is 640 case per day.

Therefore, as Chief Health Officer, I further recommend that the ACT move from the 'high risk' to 'extreme risk' category.

In accordance with the requirements for 'extreme risk' jurisdictions, travellers from Tasmania and ACT would not be permitted to enter WA unless they have been provided with an exemption, which is restricted to Commonwealth, State and specialist functions only.

Under the 'extreme risk' category, exempt travellers would be required to:

1. quarantine for 14 days in a State Quarantine Facility;
2. provide proof of receipt of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, where eligible; and
3. undertake PCR testing at days 1, 5 and 12 of quarantine.

It is my advice, as Chief Health Officer, that these changes to the WA controlled border arrangements should come into effect from 00:01 Hrs on Saturday, 08 January 2022.

I will continue to monitor the situation in the different jurisdictions and provide further advice when it is appropriate to do so.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Robertson
CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER

05 January 2022