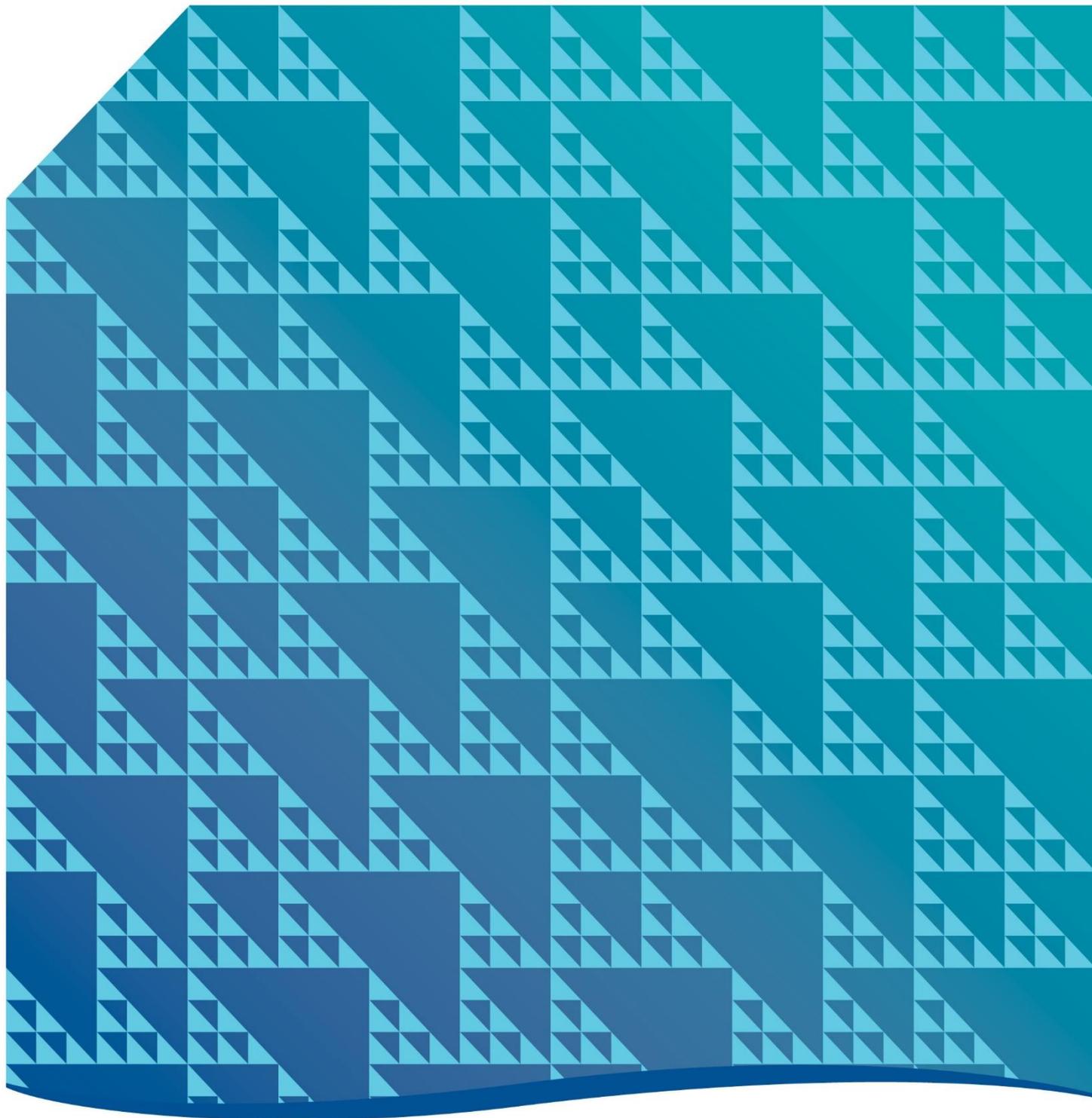


Protocol for National Antarctic Programs using Hobart as the gateway to Antarctica in season 2020-21

Hobart Antarctic Gateway 2020-21

Information current as at 7 August 2020.

Travel restrictions at every level are subject to change at short notice.



Contents

Objective	1
Introduction.....	1
1. Entry into Australia.....	1
Visas	2
Quarantine.....	2
2. Entry into Tasmania.....	3
G2G PASS.....	3
Biosecurity	3
Quarantine and accommodation	4
COVID-19 testing.....	4
Expeditioners developing signs of COVID-19 whilst in Tasmania	4
Entry to Tasmania from Antarctica	4
Travel to international from Hobart.	4
Maritime Crew	5
Australian Government restrictions for international maritime crew on arrival into Australia	5
Tasmanian government restrictions for international maritime crew on arrival into Australia.....	5
Tasports requirements	5

Objective

This protocol has been developed to assist National Antarctic Programs using the Hobart Antarctic Gateway in season 2020-21. The objectives are to:

- prevent entry of COVID-19 infection into Australia
- prevent entry of COVID-19 infection into Tasmania
- assist National Antarctic Programs in preventing entry of COVID-19 into Antarctica

by outlining all the requirements that National Antarctic programs must meet in order to travel to and from Antarctica through Hobart.

This protocol will apply to all National Antarctic Program personnel and cargo transiting through Hobart in the 2020-21 season.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is correct at time of publication. However, **travel restrictions at every level are subject to change at short notice.**

This version is dated 7 August 2020.

Antarctic Tasmania will make every endeavour to inform National Antarctic Programs of changes as they occur.

Introduction

There are two elements for travel to Tasmania at this time:

- Approval to travel to and enter Australia
- Approval to travel to and enter Tasmania

I. Entry into Australia

Australia currently has strict border measures in place to protect the health of the Australian community. Travellers cannot come to Australia unless they are in an exempt category or have been granted an individual exemption to the current travel restrictions. Only:

- Australian citizens
- permanent residents of Australia
- immediate family members of an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia and their immediate family members
- diplomats accredited to Australia (holding a subclass 995 visa)
- travellers transiting Australia for 72 hours or less
- airline crew
- maritime crew including marine pilots

can enter Australia (without obtaining an individual exemption).

In order to come to Australia all other travellers will need to be granted an exemption to enter Australia from the Commissioner for the Australian Border Force.

Antarctic travellers can request an exemption under one these categories:

- travelling for compassionate or compelling reasons

- a non-citizen travelling at the invitation of the Australian Government or a state or territory government authority for the purpose of assisting in the COVID-19 response
- military personnel, including those who form part of the Status of Forces Agreement, Commonwealth Armed Forces, Asia Pacific Forces and Status of Armed Forces Agreement

Antarctic Tasmania can assist in identifying the most suitable category and provide some supporting documentation, but you can select more than one category.

The application for an exemption is made online [here](#) with the Department of Home Affairs.

Exemptions must be granted prior to travelling to Australia.

You need to apply for an exemption at least 4 weeks, but not more than 3 months, before your planned travel.

To complete a travel exemption request you must already hold a visa and you must provide appropriate evidence (information and documents) to support your request. This must include:

- traveller details: name, date of birth, visa type and number, passport number
- proposed residential address and phone number in Australia
- your reasons for coming: why you should be granted an exemption
- a supporting statement: setting out how you meet one of the grounds for an exemption
- accompanying evidence, such as a letter from an employer indicating why travel is necessary or a letter from an Australian business or government agency, advising why your skills are critical.

Obtaining a travel exemption does not guarantee you will be able to get a flight to Australia at this time.

All the evidence supporting a request for a travel exemption claim needs to be in English or officially translated into English.

If granted an exemption, evidence of that exemption decision must be carried on the person and presented where required – e.g. at the airport.

Further information on travel restrictions are available [here](#).

Visas

Some services relating to the visa application process may be impacted by COVID-19. Antarctic travellers should apply for the usual visas as early as possible to avoid delays.

Quarantine

Every person arriving in Australia from overseas is required to enter a 14 day period of quarantine at their point of arrival into Australia.

All travellers arriving in Tasmania are required to enter quarantine on arrival in Tasmania for 14 days. Non-residents must complete the quarantine period at government approved or provided accommodation.

The Tasmanian quarantine requirement is in addition to the Australian Government requirement for all international travellers to enter quarantine at their point of arrival into Australia.

It is possible that international travellers can obtain permission to travel to Tasmania without undertaking quarantine in the state of arrival. This will require the Tasmanian State Controller to approve expeditioners to transfer to Tasmania from their port of arrival in Australia and undertake their COVID-19 quarantine obligations

in Hobart and the approval of the state of the port of arrival. Antarctic Tasmania can facilitate an application for permission to do this.

2. Entry into Tasmania

NOTE: Any travellers to Tasmania who have spent time in certain high risk regions in the 14 days prior to arrival in Tasmania are not permitted to travel to Tasmania and will be turned back at their own expense.

For the current list of Affected Regions see [here](#).

People coming to Tasmania from other jurisdictions will be allowed to transit through a Victorian airport, provided they do so directly and do not leave the confines of the airport.

The Tasmanian Government has declared a State of Emergency. Border restrictions, including requirements to quarantine for people arriving in Tasmania, are in place.

Anyone who has been overseas within 14 days of travelling to Tasmania must quarantine in a government managed accommodation facility for 14 days.

G2G PASS

Everyone coming to Tasmania must register to travel using [G2G PASS](#).

Applications must be made individually [here](#). Every application is linked to an email address, shared email addresses are not supported by the system.

Applications should be made at least 3 days before the proposed travel date, but no more than 14 days before, as restrictions may change. Applications will take at least three days to process and more if further supporting information is needed.

A passport will be needed to complete the application. Other information needed includes personal details, the reason for travel to Tasmania, including supporting evidence where necessary, and information about recent travel. Supporting evidence, such as a letter from the employer outlining why there is a need to come to Tasmania, should be attached to the application.

Once the application has been submitted it can be tracked by logging into the G2G PASS dashboard or in the G2G PASS app. See [G2G PASS FAQs](#) for more information.

The G2G PASS provides a QR code that is needed to enter Tasmania. The QR code can be displayed on a smartphone/tablet or the PDF can be printed and used. The G2G PASS QR code will be scanned by Biosecurity Tasmania officers on arrival.

G2G PASS applications can only be made on the website, but can be managed via an app. The app needs to be downloaded from the Australian Google Play Store (Android) or the Australian App Store (iPhone). Help on how to do this is available [here](#).

Documentation regarding any exemptions or approvals (e.g. for transiting through port of arrival without quarantine) must be presented to Biosecurity Tasmania officers on arrival in Tasmania.

Biosecurity

Tasmania has some of the world's most stringent biosecurity requirements to protect the State from introduced pests, weeds and diseases.

Please ensure you are not carrying or importing any restricted items into Tasmania – including fruit and vegetables, seafood, some animal products, plant material, soil and seeds. If you are carrying these items you will need to dispose of them in the quarantine bins provided or declare them to the Biosecurity Officers on arrival.

For more information, visit the [Biosecurity Tasmania website](#).

Quarantine and accommodation

Non-residents must complete the mandatory 14 day quarantine period at government provided or approved accommodation. This is a user pays system.

Antarctic Tasmania will assist National Antarctic Programs to find suitable government-approved accommodation for the mandatory quarantine period.

While in mandatory quarantine all persons must stay within the room provided and cannot have visitors. Those in quarantine will be able to communicate with family and friends via internet, phone and social media.

Provisions will be made to ensure that basic needs are met, including full catering and laundry service. More information on how to access services, including medical treatment if required, will be provided on arrival in Tasmania.

Penalties apply for breaches of the quarantine requirement.

COVID-19 testing

Any National Antarctic Program requiring COVID-19 testing whilst in Hobart will have to make commercial arrangements to do so. Antarctic Tasmania will assist in finding a suitable provider for COVID-19 testing.

Expeditioners developing signs of COVID-19 whilst in Tasmania

Expeditioners who develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 during quarantine, should call the Public Health Hotline on [1800 671 738](tel:1800671738) to get tested. They should tell the operator about their symptoms and that they are currently in quarantine. If the person has serious symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, they should call Triple Zero ([000](tel:000)) and ask for an ambulance. They should tell the operator and the ambulance officer that they are in quarantine.

Entry to Tasmania from Antarctica

The same procedures for entry into Australia will apply, except that Hobart will be the international port of arrival. Travellers will need to have an exemption from the Commissioner of the Australian Border Force. (See p.1 [I. Entry into Australia](#)) for each arrival.

Exemptions must be granted **prior to travelling** to Australia. The application for an exemption is made online [here](#).

Every person entering Tasmania from Antarctica will be required to enter a 14 day period of quarantine on arrival in government provided or approved accommodation.

Travel to international from Hobart

Temporary visa holders do not need an exemption to depart Australia. They can leave at any time, as long as border restrictions in their home country allow them to return.

Any foreign national wishing to leave Tasmania during a quarantine period may do so, as long as they travel straight to the airport and transit to an international flight, or travel straight to a vessel and depart on the vessel.

You should check restrictions in other states if you plan to transit through another place in Australia such as Sydney or Melbourne.

All arrangements for onward travel will be the responsibility of each National Antarctic Program.

3. Maritime Crew

[Australian Government restrictions for international maritime crew on arrival into Australia](#)

Maritime crew are defined as anyone required to be part of a crew operating or providing services to support the operation of a commercial vessel or Government vessel in Australian waters. All maritime crew members will need to hold their usual visa to travel to Australia. If this is not a maritime crew visa (MCV), vessel crew (including foreign Navy crew on a Special Purpose Visa) will also have to apply for an exemption to enter Australia from the Commissioner for the Australian Border Force. (See p.1 [I. Entry into Australia](#)).

For crew on maritime crew visas the following information from the Australian government will apply. Click [here](#) to access COVID-19 information for the marine industry.

[Tasmanian government restrictions for international maritime crew on arrival into Australia](#)

Maritime crew coming to Tasmania are also subject to Tasmanian travel restrictions.

All maritime crew who have been overseas within 14 days of travelling to Tasmania will be required to complete a period of quarantine in a government approved facility in Tasmania. There are no exemptions. The Tasmanian State Controller may allow quarantine to be on the vessel rather than in an on-shore government-approved accommodation facility.

Antarctic Tasmania can assist in seeking approval from the State Controller to quarantine on the vessel.

Maritime crew will need to register to travel to Tasmania using a [G2G PASS](#). This will need to be done by each individual on the G2G PASS [website](#). Supporting evidence from the employer detailing travel status should be attached to the application.

Any foreign national wishing to leave Tasmania during a quarantine period may do so, as long as they travel straight to the airport and transit to an international flight, or travel straight to a vessel and depart on the vessel.

'Antarctica' is regarded as an international port of call.

[Tasports requirements](#)

Tasports, which is the Tasmanian port authority, also has a number of requirements for international vessels and crew.

Port Exclusion Period

From 2359 hours AEST on 15 March 2020, all international vessels must not enter any Tasmanian Port Limits until 14 days have elapsed from the time the vessel, crew member or person on board the ship have departed the country outside of Australia, whichever is later.

This requirement applies to:

- Any vessel that has left, or transited through a port outside of Australian Territorial Waters after 2359 hours AEST on 15 March 2020; or

- Any vessel arriving to Tasmania that has had a crew member or other person on board that has travelled to or transited through a country outside Australia after 2359 hours AEST on 15 March 2020

Crew

Tasports require that all crew from international vessels arriving in Tasmania are required to remain on-board when in port regardless of the time since last departing a country outside of Australia.

Should a crew member be required to disembark for critical vessel duties alongside, then they may do so but are required to practice good hand hygiene, wear protective gear and minimise their contact with port staff. At minimum, protective gear should include a face mask, glasses and gloves.

Crew Changeovers

Tasports requires all crew arriving from international destinations to have completed a 14 day self-isolation period in line with the Australian Government self-isolation requirements.

Exceptions to these restrictions will only be applied in exceptional circumstances. Any such requests are to be forwarded to Tasports VTS with the details and reasoning for the request.

Antarctic Tasmania and the shipping agent will be able to assist National Antarctic Programs to liaise with Tasports.



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