

As at 10:30am, 8 May 2020, there have been 6,913 cases reported in Australia, including 97 deaths. A total of 3,836,215 cases of COVID-19 have been reported globally, including 268,999 deaths. I believe, on the basis of this domestic and international evidence, that COVID-19 is continuing to pose a severe and immediate threat to human health on a nationally significant scale.

s47C, s47E(d)

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Other current determinations made under section 477 of the Act include restrictions on entry to remote communities, additional protections for persons, information collected by the COVIDSafe App, prohibitions on price gouging of essential goods (such as personal protective equipment), restrictions on outward travel for Australian citizens and permanent residents, and the closure of retail stores at international airports.

Provided the human biosecurity emergency period is extended until 17 September 2020, these requirements under the emergency declaration will continue to have effect, until such a time that they are no longer deemed appropriate for managing the threat posed by COVID-19 and can be revoked.

In my capacity as Director of Human Biosecurity, I am satisfied that extending the declaration of the human biosecurity emergency period in relation to COVID-19 by a further three months to 17 September 2020 is necessary. An extension will also allow the current determinations to continue and maintain the availability of powers to give effect to critical recommendations of the AHPPC. I am satisfied this time period is suitable and appropriate to manage the medium and longer term response requirements for COVID-19.

Yours sincerely


Professor Brendan Murphy
Chief Medical Officer
Director of Human Biosecurity

May 2020