

LEADING IN INNOVATION

BONDI BURNING PALMS BRONTE CLOVELLY COOGEE CRONULLA ELOUERA ERA GARIE
MAROUBRA NORTH BONDI NORTH CRONULLA SOUTH MAROUBRA TAMARAMA WANDA

CIRCULAR

ISSUE DATE	NUMBER
Thursday 26 March 2020	44/19-20

To	Club Presidents, Secretaries, Club Captains
From	Peter Agnew ESM, President SLS
CC	BOM, LSEC, SSC, JDC, MSC
Subject	SLSS COVID-19 Communication Update

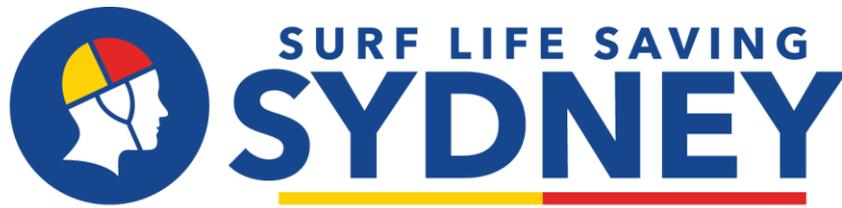
This circular relates to Lifesaving activity for the remainder of the 2019/20 Season and for operations this weekend (28/29 March 2020). Surf Life Saving Sydney (SLSS) will be assessing ongoing Government and Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) information and making amendment to advice as required.

Current Operational status

SLSS and Club Presidents have resolved to withdraw traditional Patrol Services and release members from their need to do Rostered Patrols for the remainder of the 2019/20 Season. SLSS will now deploy alternative patrolling methods to work with Local Government to provide a public safety service. This decision was made to protect member safety and to minimise the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. Each Sydney metropolitan Surf Life Saving Club is now closed for general usage under Federal Government recommendations.

SLSS will now work hard to meet our organisational vision of preventing drowning and providing a public safety service across our coastline via non-traditional service provision. Our Support Operations team, with assistance from Members and Clubs, will now provide a lower risk abridged service to support Local Government. Predominantly these services will be on-water and comply with Government social distancing requirements. This service provision will be reviewed on a week by week basis depending on external and Governmental advice. It is expected that this advice will change shortly.

Club Presidents are empowered to offer assistance for Lifesaving activity based on consultation with their Local Government representative, predicted weather conditions and liaison with the Support Operations Manager, Matt Spooner. Assistance may include an IRB and crew on water or tower surveillance etc.



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Clubs are also asked to update their Emergency Call Out Team (ECOT) information in SurfGuard and prepare their equipment to be rescue ready in the event of an emergency call out or if required in public risk scenarios. It will be a Club/Member decision to respond to emergency call out requests.

Clubs in the Royal National Park (RNP) will be providing minimal surveillance services in some form and a plan will be developed weekly.

The Support Operations Manager will be providing Clubs and Operational Teams with a SMEAC overview prior to the weekend and each week.

Stakeholder Communication

SLSS and Club Presidents will be communicating with Local Government contacts to determine the best utilisation of service provision and to provide an optimal co-ordinated public safety service.

While restrained recreation will be import at times like this, SLSS has requested that a public safety communication strategy be developed to advise the public not to attend the beach during minimal service provision and at heightened alert periods for public gatherings. We support the closure of beaches where it is difficult to maintain social distancing and where minimal service provision is provided. We support the Governments recommendations for Australians to stay at home.

SLNSW have ongoing communications with the State Government regarding service provision and public communication.

Escalation in Restriction Levels

SLSS are currently defining and planning for the operational status of our service with further escalation of Government restriction levels expected. We recommend that our services move to a 24-hour call out basis in the event of a general "lock down"

Member and Community Support

We are currently planning for a number of online activities for our Education Programs and Member Communications to keep Members engaged. Clubs are also developing ways to support our Members and the community during Club closures.

Thank you to our Members and Club/Branch Management Teams for their open communications, sound problem solving and safety focus. Surf Life Saving is a strong community and I would ask that we continue to support each other and the community in different ways during this period. Good health!

Peter Agnew ESM
President
Surf Life Saving Sydney