



27 May 2021

Statement from the Finke Desert Race

The news out last night that the Chief Health Officer (NT) had declared Greater Melbourne and Bendigo as hotspots for the purposes of travel to the Northern Territory will see many people worried that they may not get to travel to this year's Tatts Finke Desert Race in just over a fortnight.

That is something that is beyond our control and we continue to monitor information from an official source.

I encourage you all to keep across the Northern Territory Government's coronavirus website www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au and their Facebook for updates on hot spot declarations and any quarantine requirements. Like many of you in Victoria and likely in other states, we can only hope that the 7 day lockdown across Victoria will have the desired effect and eliminate as much as possible, community transmission.

The NT is a great place to be at present and whilst it may seem that we are oblivious to the realities of lockdown, there are many of us with family in Melbourne and across Victoria that we worry about. We are also very keen to see our friends back in the NT after the cancellation of last year's event.

As you can probably understand the Finke office is being overwhelmed with enquiries. The answers to the vast majority of questions can be found on our website, in the competition supplementary regulations or on the NT's coronavirus website.

For those planning to travel to the NT for Finke from interstate, I remind you that the NT Border Declaration must be completed prior to, and within 7 days of travelling. It's a simple request and easy to complete; this is the first line of defence in terms of track and trace.

In relation to the Aputula community at Finke and the concerns we have for community members, the club will now only support competitors, crew and volunteers being in the race camp this year. Further information will be released next week.

I encourage as many of you as possible during this trying period to take the opportunity to get vaccinated.

I can't offer any assurances as to what will happen as the event draws closer. The Finke Desert Race committee is finalising planning for the event and we look forward to seeing as many as possible in Alice Springs in a fortnight.

Antony Yoffa
President