

AUSTRALIA

Information current as at 24.03.2020

Australian ports generally remain open although decisions on port closures and restrictions are likely to be made on a state-by-state basis.

Queensland Ports

For Queensland ports, the ports remain open however Maritime Safety Qld (MSQ) has issued directions about entry into port by foreign vessels:

- Direction issued 5 March 2020

If the ship left, or transited through a port in mainland China or South Korea (both of which are a relevant country) in the last 14 days, or any crew or other person on board the ship (a relevant person) has travelled to or transited through a relevant country in the last 14 days, the ship must not enter a Queensland pilotage area until 14 days have elapsed since the ship or any relevant person on board the ship left a relevant country, whichever is later.

- Direction issued 15 March 2020

If the ship has left, or transited through a port outside Australian Territorial Waters after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020, or any crew or other person on board (a relevant person) has travelled to or transited through a country outside Australia after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020, the ship must not enter a Queensland pilotage area until 14 days have elapsed since the ship or any relevant person on board the ship left a country outside Australia, whichever is later.

MSQ has indicated that it may consider exempting vessels to take into account vital supplies such as fuel, and some vessels may therefore be considered for exemption on a case-by-case basis. The directions and COVID-19 related matters from MSQ can be found at this website

<https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/About-us/News-and-stories/Coronavirus>

Cruise Ships

On 15 March 2020, the Australian Government announced a full restriction on arrivals of any cruise ship that has left a foreign port. The restrictions are inclusive of direct arrivals and Round Trip Cruises (RTC). This measure will be reviewed after 30 days. From 0001 AEDST 16 March 2020, Australia will deny entry to any cruise ship that has left a foreign port, with the exception of:

- Australian-flagged vessels.
- International cruise ships en-route having departed their last overseas port and destined for Australia.
- Australian cruise vessels (domestic cruise ships) operating within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone can continue to operate without restriction.
- RTC that are already in progress and currently returning to Australia.