



03 February 2020

Assistance of Evacuation to Christmas Island at RAAF Base Learmonth

The Shire of Exmouth provides this formal statement relating to the transfer of Australian Citizens & Permanent Residents out of the Chinese city of Wuhan.

The Shire is sympathetic to the situation and happy to support the operation in any way that does not pose a risk to Shire employees or the community of Exmouth.

Shire President Matthew Niikkula emphasises: "The Learmonth Airport is an Active RAAF Base, and this very important operation is being carried out by defence personnel using defence assets. We have been informed that the passengers who decided to participate in the evacuation will not be in contact with the domestic side of the Airport operations."

"This operation highlights the strategic importance that RAAF Learmonth plays as a forward defence base and the important role Exmouth plays in supporting other defence assets in the Indian Ocean region."

The Shire has been made aware (this afternoon 1.30 pm) that some of the flight crew from the Wuhan flight will overnight in an Exmouth accommodation venue and will leave on the morning commercial flight out of Learmonth tomorrow.

Whilst not consulted previously, the Shire has been assured by Qantas and federal public health officials that the Qantas staff have not been in contact with the repatriated Australians from Wuhan during the repatriation exercise.

For general information, WA Health set up the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. For the latest updates, visit the [Department of Health](#) website and the [Chief Health Officer statement](#).

-----ENDS-----
Media contact: 9949 3000