


From: Security Alert - International SOS <risksights@internationalsos.com>
Sent: 19 February 2021 11:24
To: Arun Rohilla
Subject: 96 travellers now - Notice: Australia - Review information, alert sources after social media restrictions on news

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INTERNATIONAL SOS

Australia: Review information, alert sources after social media restrictions on news


OVERVIEW

 Level:


Notice

 Location:

Australia

 Category:

Infrastructure outage

 Active:

19 Feb 2021 - 19 Mar 2021

Last Updated: 19 Feb 2021 05:51 (GMT)

The table below shows the number of impacted and potentially impacted individuals and assets at the date/time the alert was issued. The counts include individuals within the impact radius of the alert and may not reflect the total number of people in each area listed.

Please log into [Tracker](#) for the latest information or [click here](#) for an up-to-date list of affected individuals and assets in the impacted area.

EXPOSURE IN IMPACTED AREA ONLY

Location	There Now	There in next 24 hours	There in next 1-7 days	There while the alert is active
Australia (Low Risk)	96	98	94	159
TOTAL	96	98	94	159

Social media company Facebook blocked Australian users from sharing or viewing news content on the platform from 18 February. Users outside Australia are also unable to access Australian news publications on the platform. The ongoing block is in response to a proposed law in Australia that would have social media companies pay for news content on their platforms. Official government pages, including sites related to emergency services, COVID-19 and other health information, have also been rendered inaccessible, though Facebook has stated that services to these pages would be restored. Staff in Australia are advised to review information sources and regularly check state and federal government websites for updates.

MORE DETAIL

These developments are part of a long-running legal and public relations dispute between Facebook, Google, legacy news organisations and the Australian government over the commercial model for online news. Google has agreed to a funding deal with several news organisations. Thus, there has been no immediate change for Australians accessing news through Google search.

At this stage it is unclear whether there will be an accommodation made between Facebook and the government to 're-platform' smaller or independent news services. In addition, Facebook has not given a time frame for restoring emergency services and other non-media alert services, such as rural fire and meteorological services, on its platform.

Facebook's blocking of news, current affairs and other media sites has been uneven, meaning some government and un reputable media pages remain accessible. It is possible that some potential sources of misinformation and disinformation will be restricted by the ban, while others will continue. Furthermore, there will be significant disruption both to news consumption and messaging by a variety of organisations, including on COVID-19 vaccine deployment and the Western Australia state election on 13 March.

WHAT WE ADVISED YOUR PEOPLE

In-country staff

Access news and updates by directly accessing the publishers websites or through other platforms, for example by listening to local radio stations and by monitoring the emergency services websites for [New South Wales \(NSW\)](#), [Queensland](#), [South Australia](#), [Tasmania](#), [Victoria](#), [Western Australia](#) and the [Northern Territory](#). You can also follow the Twitter accounts of the [NSW](#), [Queensland](#), [South Australia](#), [Tasmania](#), [Victoria](#), [Western Australia](#) and [Northern Territory](#) fire and emergency services. Monitor all Monitor the Bureau of Meteorology [website](#) for weather warnings and follow all official directives. Monitor ongoing bushfires via the active fire maps of [NSW](#), [Queensland](#), [South Australia](#), [Tasmania](#), [Victoria](#) and [Western Australia](#) states and the [Northern Territory](#). Check the official Australia government [website](#) for updates and advice on COVID-19. Be wary of anonymous, single sources. Confirm information using multiple authoritative sources. Monitor our Australia alerts for updates

Managers

Ensure regular updates to staff on developments that may affect their movements, including those linked to

ASSISTANCE



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Call our medical and travel security specialists any time for advice and assistance before, during or after your trip. All 24-hour Assistance Centre phone numbers can be viewed [here](#).

YOUR FEEDBACK

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