

Northern Territory Remote Stores

Store Manager Wet Season Readiness Guide



Purpose of This Guide

This guide helps store managers prepare for, respond to, and recover from wet season isolation in remote communities. It outlines practical steps, reporting requirements, and guidance for maintaining food security.



Cold Chain and Storage Protection

Cold Chain

- Keep doors closed
- Maintain temperature logs
- Prioritise generator power

Dry Storage

- Elevate pallets
- Protect from humidity and pests

Wet Season at a Glance

- **Preseason Preparation**
October–November
- **Isolation Possible**
November–April
- **Extended Isolation Risk**
November–April (Could extend to May or even June)
- **Cyclones**
November–April
- **Road closures can occur suddenly due to rainfall or flooding**

Roles & Responsibilities

Store Manager Responsibilities:

- Stockpile essential goods before isolation.
- Maintain accurate stock data.
- Protect cold-chain and maintain food safety.
- Communicate issues early.
- Use alternative freight if needed.
- Maintain generators and communication equipment.

DTBAR Responsibilities:

- Provide early warnings and guidance
- Supply essential goods lists
- Request and review stock data
- Support freight assistance if necessary

Essential Preseason Checklist (October–November)

Stock & Supply

- Review last year's isolation duration
- Stockpile essential goods
- Confirm supplier lead times
- Confirm freight schedules

Infrastructure

- Check generator is operational and service if necessary
- Confirm fuel reserves
- Inspect cold and dry storage.

Information & Reporting

- Update emergency contacts
- Complete preseason stock snapshot
- Attend preparedness briefing

Essential Goods List Example

Refer to the DTBAR Essentials Good List for further details.

- Long-life milk
- Infant formula
- Rice, flour, pasta
- Tinned food
- Water
- Baby care items
- Hygiene products
- Long-life vegetables
- Cooking oil

Freight & Supply Contingency Planning

Know Your Options

- Road Freight
- Air freight
- Barge freight
- Emergency resupply

Reporting Requirements

Critical Goods Survey

- Fortnightly during wet season
- Immediate Reporting:
 - Freight failure
 - Power/generator issues
 - Cold-chain breakdown
 - Less than 2 days essential goods cover

Communication Channels

- Emails: survey reminders
- Phone calls: urgent issues
- SMS alerts during emergencies

Freight Assistance Grant

- Government may support essentials good resupply during prolonged isolation
- Separate guidance available on how to access resupply grants
- Managers must document stock, freight attempts, invoices

OUR CONTACTS

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