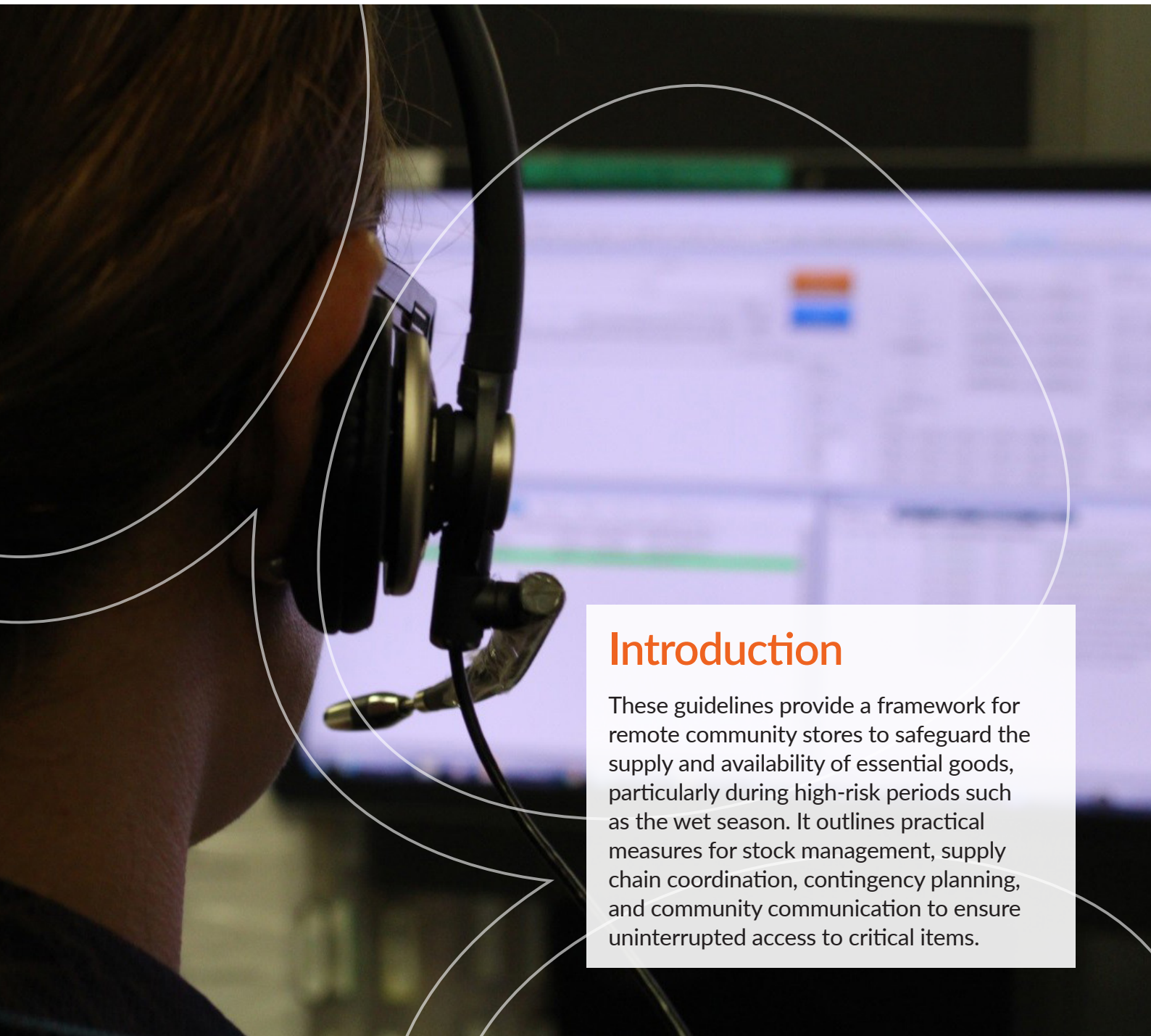


Northern Territory Remote Stores Guidelines for Essential Goods Security



Introduction

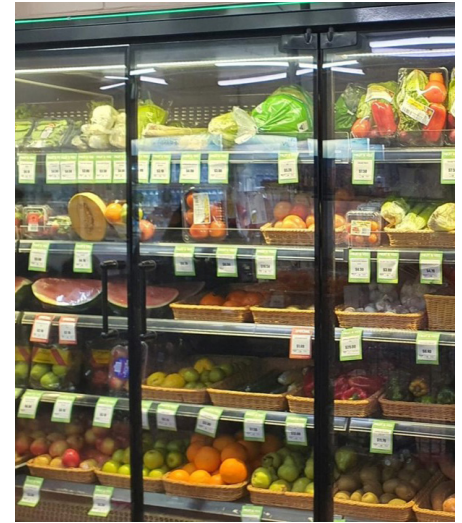
These guidelines provide a framework for remote community stores to safeguard the supply and availability of essential goods, particularly during high-risk periods such as the wet season. It outlines practical measures for stock management, supply chain coordination, contingency planning, and community communication to ensure uninterrupted access to critical items.

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Introduction

These guidelines provide a framework for remote community stores to safeguard the supply and availability of essential goods, particularly during high-risk periods such as the wet season. It outlines practical measures for stock management, supply chain coordination, contingency planning, and community communication to ensure uninterrupted access to critical items.



Planning and Inventory Management

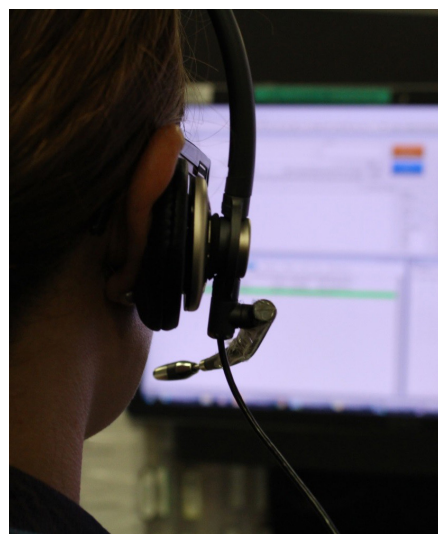
- **Seasonal Stock Adjustments**
Increase inventory levels (especially of non-perishable essential goods) ahead of the wet season (typically November to April), when flooding can cut off road access for extended periods.
- **Culturally Appropriate Supplies**
Ensure stock includes foods and goods aligned with local Indigenous community preferences and needs.
- **Stockpile Stocks**
Due to long transport distances and potential isolation, stockpile stocks for contingency use.
- **Expand storage**
Explore opportunities for Federal Government funding to expand cold storage, fuel tanks and purchase equipment to improve food supplies during the wet season.

Supplier Relations and Ordering

- **Engage with Suppliers**
Engage with suppliers before the wet season.
- **Early and Flexible Ordering**
Place orders well in advance of the wet season and be prepared to adjust orders rapidly based on changing weather forecasts and community needs.
- **Use of Local Produce**
Where possible, incorporate locally sourced foods to support community resilience and reduce reliance on long supply chains.

Transportation and Logistics

- **Road Transport with Seasonal Awareness**
Prioritize stocking before expected road closures during the wet season; monitor road conditions via Road Report NT.
- **Alternative Transport Modes**
Utilize air freight (small planes, helicopters) for urgent deliveries or when roads are impassable, especially to very remote communities.
- **Island and Coastal Communities**
Utilise barges or air freight.
- **Subsidies**
Take advantage of NIAA's low-cost essential goods program being implemented by Outback Stores.



Emergency Preparedness

- **Wet Season Contingency Plans**
Develop and regularly update plans specifically for wet season disruptions, including pre-positioning of supplies.

Communication

- **Establish Communication Channels**
Maintain updated contact lists for suppliers, freight providers, local councils, and emergency services
 - Use multiple communication channels (phone, email, radio, satellite) for redundancy
- **Regular Status Updates**
The Department of Trade, Business and Asian Relations (DTBAR) has initiated the Critical Goods Survey to enable remote stores to seamlessly provide updates on stock levels to the department. Provide twice monthly stock level reports to DTBAR during the wet season
 - Notify stakeholders immediately of any supply disruptions or critical shortages
- **Community Information**
Display clear notices in-store about stock availability and rationing measures if needed.

Post Season

- **After-Action Reviews**
Conduct reviews post-wet season or after emergencies to identify improvements.