



Hello Folks,

Please take the time to read this letter regarding how the continued effects of Covid19 closures, lockdowns, restrictions have forced the business into hibernation for the foreseeable future.

The hope for a better climate to run trips 2021 was dashed early on with the cancellation of our mainland season and although an extremely disappointing & difficult discussion, it proved the right one. I had held hopes of running some last-minute trips if the situation improved but as we all know this is far from the case. The plan to run trips in Tasmania this season is also looking to be foiled and with the news of some ongoing restrictions to be in place well into 2022 It's making it difficult to plan anything at all whilst the goal posts continue to move.

I can no longer continue to carry the risk in propping up the business amid the constant changes, increasing costs with no income or government support. Commercial license fees continue to be charged by state governments, mandated insurance costs have gone up with little to no business activity/risk, no financial help in the way of government grants or payments because the business is based outside lockdown areas. It's an impossible time to be in business and whilst it breaks my heart to close the door, for now it's the only option.

As far as if and when Aussie Overlander will be back up and running... Well effectively that's outside my control for now, but if the situation allows; I'd be looking to run Tasmanian trips November 2022 and from there who knows, let's see.

For those of you who had paid deposits prior to the Covid19 outbreak in Australia these will continue to be handled in line with the booking conditions. The Corona virus pandemic is considered a force majeure which is an event that occurs outside of the reasonable control of either party. The non-refundable deposit is just that and in place to cover some of the business costs that are non-recoverable in these circumstances where cancellation outside the control of operator has occurred. Therefore, travel insurance is recommended when booking, to cover these costs, should they occur. I am aware that some travel insurance providers have wiggled their way out of covering cancellations due to Covid19 as have business interruption insurance providers. It's a tough position for all concerned... other than insurers it seems! Some have asked for clarification on this in the past and I hope this helps to explain. Please know that by no way is the business profiting from this.

Those who had made full payments for trips I will be in contact in the coming weeks regarding refunding these fees less the deposit amount.

All deposits paid prior to the Covid19 outbreak in Australia are non-refundable as per the booking conditions however I will continue to offer the deposit as a credit/discount off trip fees should you wish to book a future trip when we eventually get back to running trips.

I recognise this is a very frustrating and difficult time for many and I desperately wanted to be able to get out on the tracks with you all, enjoy the Aussie Bush and put all this behind us and I really hope you'll all do so in your own way once able.

Finally, our contact details will remain as they are and I welcome you to get in touch, I enjoy hearing what you've been up to and seeing a trail shot or two. Pop us an email or give me a call, maybe you want to discuss a walk or simply just have chat.

It's been one hell of a ride creating Aussie Overlander and something I'm very proud of. I really cherish the memories of the journey that so many of you have been a big part of. Thankyou!

You can get in touch either via phone on 0428202536 or email carl@aussieoverlander.com.au

Yours in Aussie touring,

Carl Burden

Tour Guide & Owner
Aussie Overlander

www.aussieoverlander.com.au