



Australians continue to receive positive news on case numbers of COVID-19, with less than 1000 active cases nationwide. Some States and Territories are starting to see an easing of restrictions in response to a squashing of the curve, as a level of attention turns to the steps towards Economic recovery.

CCAA is continuing to collect the latest news relevant to Construction & Markets to share with our members.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- The COVIDSafe app has now been downloaded over 4.5 million times. Next week, [legislation protecting the data it collects](#) will be debated in Parliament. The app is available for voluntary download here [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).
- Taking care of your mental health and wellbeing during coronavirus is important and support is available. Contact [Lifeline](#) on **13 11 14** or [Beyond Blue](#) on **1300 224 636** at any time. Go to the [emergency support and assistance page](#) for information about additional services that can help you.
- CCAA has launched a suite of member support materials in connection with our [COVID-19 Business Continuity Guideline](#). Enrol in the [E-Learning module](#), watch the [animated explainer video](#) or download the [Toolbox Talk slide deck](#) to learn how you can minimize related risks and continue to operate safely.

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern [will join Australia's national cabinet meeting](#) today to discuss COVID-19 and the opportunity to create a travel bubble between the two countries.
- National Cabinet will also consider the first phase of easing coronavirus restrictions next Friday 8 May. Decisions will be based on expert medical advice. [Read more.](#)
- Good news with a [freeze announced on the Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge](#), with the Federal Government abandoning the proposed 2.5% RUC tax increase.

## STATE GOVERNMENT

- **QLD – Environmental Authority Holders** – the government is actively working with key stakeholders in an effort to understand and resolve emerging COVID-19 issues faced by regulated industries. If you are concerned about potential compliance issues as a result of the

COVID-19 response, you should complete the [Covid-19 related compliance issue notification form](#). [Learn more](#).

- **VIC - The Treasurer Tim Pallas has just announced a further \$491 million in tax relief to help save businesses and jobs**, and freeze a host of fees, charges and levies to reduce financial burdens. Businesses participating in the JobKeeper scheme in Victoria will be exempt from payroll tax and the WorkCover premium on payments to their employees if their staff are currently stood down.
- **VIC – legislation to support jobs, services and Victorians has now passed**. [Learn more](#).
- **TAS - Support grants for small business**. The Minister for Small Business, Hospitality and Events, the Hon. Sarah Courtney MP announced yesterday extra support for small businesses. An additional \$10 million has been added to the small business grants program and a further \$10 million in hardship grants to enable more access to financial support. [A total support package of \\$60 million has been made available](#) with an extension for new applications until 4 May 2020.
- **TAS - The Minister for Finance, the Hon. Michael Ferguson MP announced the Tasmanian Government will waive payroll tax on the Federal Government JobKeeper payments for businesses employing Tasmanians**. By waiving payroll tax the Tasmanian Government will help maximise the benefit of the stimulus measure.
- **SA - The Marshall Government has established a broad high-level transition team** to guide the [delicate process of both continuing to move out of the COVID-19 health emergency](#) and restoring the social and economic health of the State.
- **SA - First major tranche of emergency cash grants flow** to More than [1000 small businesses and not-for-profits impacted](#) by COVID-19 restrictions who will receive a one-off \$10,000 emergency cash grant this week.
- **WA - New \$154.5m relief package to support tenants, landlords and construction industry announced** by the WA Government, [adding to the \\$1.7 billion stimulus and relief package for businesses and households](#).
- **NSW - Transport for NSW has just published an update** on their website, confirming their **commitment to delivery over \$575 billion in transport infrastructure over the next four years** to improve networks and increase public transport capacity for customer.

## CONSTRUCTION

- **VIC - Supporting Housing Developments**. CCAA recently met with the Chair of the Government's new Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce, Stan Krpan. The Taskforce aims to keep the state's building and development industry running by identifying and fast tracking housing and development projects. More detail in the Minister for Planning's [media release](#).
- **VIC - The Treasurer Tim Pallas has announced that there will be no increase in Government fees for services and regulatory purposes, including licensing and registering certain activities**. More detail is available [here](#).
- **QLD – CCAA has held a special session with Department of Transport and Main Roads** to discuss several TMR initiatives underway. These include an offer to Contractors to amend their contracts on a case-by-case basis over coming weeks to include specific references to COVID-19 impacts in relation to extension of time, delay costs, suspension, rise and fall, and terminations. TMR has also implemented new payment arrangements to all suppliers for the period of the pandemic, to assist contractors with cashflow.

- **NSW - [More than 3000 new homes, a new primary school and town plaza in Sydney's North West](#)** have been given the green light, with the NSW Government approving the concept plans for Ivanhoe Estate.
- **NSW - Real-time tracking and faster processing of local development applications** is a step closer, thanks to nearly [\\$10 million in funding from the NSW Government](#).
- **SA – Design Team appointed for Southern Expansion of The Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department.** Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade said the \$11 million Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department development [forms part of the larger \\$45.7 million Southern Health Expansion Plan \(SHEP\)](#) – a series of service relocations and expansions that will improve access to health services across Southern Adelaide.
- **WA - Major projects fast-tracked to support jobs during COVID-19** - a new [streamlined process & panel has been established for transport construction contracts worth up to \\$20 million](#), expediting up to \$140 million of transport projects. It is expected more than 1,000 local jobs across the 24 projects will be brought forward.

## MARKET – AUSTRALIA

- **Future Gazing** – The Business Council Of Australia has designed a three-tier strategy to spur growth as business leaders push for the restoration of our economy. Read the strategy on the [BCA's website](#).
- **BIG FOUR DEBATE: DIVIDENDS VS CAPITAL RAISING** - ANZ Bank positioned itself as more prudent and better managed than its rivals when the Board deferred its decision on the first-half dividend until August. After considering a range of scenarios over recent weeks, the bank decided that handing cash out to shareholders now and risk damaging the organisation is not in the long-term interests of shareholders. Some shareholders beg to differ, especially self-funded retirees. Read more in [The AFR here](#). *(Subscriber access)*
- **SHUTDOWNS WILL HAVE PROFOUND CHANGES IN RETAIL AND ENERGY SECTORS** - Veteran commentator Robert Gottlieb in The Australian sheds light on the areas that look most vulnerable to longer-term damage: the retail sector and energy. The big rise in online purchases will moderate but we are unlikely to go back to the old ways, causing many shopping centers to suffer. But the most staggering commercial outcome from the pandemic has been falling energy consumption. As a major energy exporter, Australia will suffer unless there is a reversal. Read more in [The Australian here](#). *(Subscriber access)*

## GLOBAL MARKET NEWS

- **SURVIVING THE VIRUS – CASH HELPS** - New research analysing 6,000 publicly traded companies globally confirms that, in rich countries at least, the corporations most likely to survive the economic shock are those with more cash- and those with strong CSR policies. Read [The Economist here](#) for a list of companies that fared best.
- **CHINA FACTORIES ARE BACK, BUT WHERE ARE THE CONSUMERS?** As the coronavirus outbreak ebbs in China, the country's companies and officials have made big strides in restarting its economy. However, the New York Times reports that encouraging buyers might be the harder task given the financial impact of job losses and pay cuts on consumer sentiment. [Read the article here](#).