



As the COVID-19 Crisis continues to dominate local and global headlines, CCAA is collecting the latest news relevant to Construction & Markets, to share with our members.

We will be sending regular bulletins, as we all work to navigate the current situation.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- **The Australian Government has published [Theoretical modelling on the Impact of COVID-19](#) and health system response.** The National Cabinet has asked for future modelling to be refined beyond scenario planning, to reflect the actual experience in Australia, including the impact of measures in place.
- **Mental Health & COVID-19** - SafeWork Australia has published [information](#) on managing Mental Health during the crisis. Advising 'The duty of employers under the model WH&S laws apply to psychological health too. This is a stressful time for all Australians, and employers must do what they can to reduce the psychological risks to workers and others at the workplace'.

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

- **The Prime Minister has provided an [update on Coronavirus Measures](#)** - including information on a [Mandatory Commercial Tenancy Code](#), established to impose a set of good faith principles for commercial tenancies, in circumstances where the tenant is a small-medium sized business (annual turnover of up to \$50 million) and is an eligible business for the [JobKeeper programme](#).

## STATE GOVERNMENT

- **VIC** - A [Crisis Council of Cabinet](#), has been announced by The Premier, to combat Coronavirus, with clear senior responsibilities established around health, safety, transport and jobs.
- **NSW** - An updated [NSW Major Projects Infrastructure Pipeline](#) has been published by Infrastructure Australia, setting out the task for government and private industry for the next six to 12 months. It restates the Government's commitment to invest in infrastructure, to support confidence, industry sustainability, employment continuity and mobilisation of construction teams across the state.
- **QLD** - Department of Natural Resources and Mines - A [bulletin](#) from the Mines Inspectorate has outlined regulatory obligations and activities. CCAA, after asking for clarification, has been advised 'that they are not asking for a COVID-19 plan from quarries.' Engagement continues.

- **QLD** - The Government has a number of restrictions limiting the movement of people to the state. The most up to date information is available [here](#).
- **SA** - Businesses whose employees qualify for the historic \$1500-a-fortnight JobKeeper will be [exempt from paying any payroll tax on the wage subsidy](#), in a Marshall Liberal Government announcement.
- **WA** - McGowan Government has placed a [hard border closure](#), where people will no longer be able to enter Western Australia without an exemption, effective from midnight on April 5.
- **WA** - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has [confirmed](#) it will continue to meet its responsibilities as the State's primary regulator and prioritise the health and safety of stakeholders. This includes minimising disruptions to its regulatory activities and asking for cooperation from partners.

## CONSTRUCTION

- **VIC** - An intention to fast-track government Infrastructure has been signalled in a [media release](#) from the Minister for Transport Infrastructure. 'The Government has been working closely with the construction industry, unions, and our contractors to ensure the *Big Build Program* can continue safely. More than 15,000 workers are delivering critical transport infrastructure to keep Victoria moving.'
- **VIC** - CCAA has received a [letter from the Treasurer Tim Pallas](#), in a clear statement of the Government's commitment to the construction sector and the Big Build, conditional on operating safely to the wider industry guidelines including CCAA's [Business Continuity Guideline](#).
- **TAS** - The Government has recognised the building and construction sector as essential but has urged those in the industry to take measures to minimise the risk of COVID-19. WorkSafe Tasmania has released [COVID-19 Guidelines](#).
- **NSW** - The Government will cut red tape and fast-track planning processes to keep people in jobs and the construction industry moving throughout the COVID-19 crisis. In a [media release](#), Minister Stokes said that the construction and development sectors will be vital in keeping people in jobs and supporting the State's economic recovery. The [Planning System Acceleration Program](#) will create opportunities for more than 30,000 construction jobs in the next six months.
- **QLD** - The [#MakingItForQLD campaign](#) has been launched by the Government to celebrate Queensland manufacturers mobilising and repurposing to support the state during the COVID-19 crisis. Companies are being asked to share their inspiring stories as part of the campaign.
- **QLD** - Department of Transport and Main Roads is continuing to deliver its [QTRIP program](#) and is working with CCAA and the civil construction sector to keep packages moving as quickly as possible through the current crisis.

## MARKET - AUSTRALIA

- **Austrade** has launched A [COVID-19 site](#) to provide exporters with updates on markets and logistics, and links through to the Government's extensive business support programs.
- **AFR's economist survey** for the March quarter showed economists are forecasting a median 3.9 per cent contraction in calendar 2020. View the full table of Australian economist predictions in [The AFR](#). (*Subscriber access*)

- An analyst has said the message sent by policymakers and the community to corporate Australia is clear **"Do your bit" and sacrifice dividends** to carry businesses through the crisis. Meanwhile, CBA CEO said Australia's banks are better placed than offshore peers, and that suspending dividends directly would be a problem. Read more here in [The Australian](#).  
(Subscriber access)

## GLOBAL MARKET NEWS

- **Twitter co-founder & CEO pledges \$1.6bn** to COVID-19 relief efforts. Read [The SHM article here](#).
- **Goldman Sachs is predicting a slow recovery**, with its latest forecast showing a very gradual rise in GDP, which will not reach its pre-virus path before the end of 2021. Read the full article in [The Financial Times](#).