



As restrictions continue to ease across Australia and Economic recovery plans unfold, Australians are returning to lives under a new normal and staying alert to infection hot spots like those we are seeing in Victoria. Social Distancing remains key to minimizing the risk of a second wave of outbreaks.

CCAA has summarised the latest news relevant to Construction & Markets, to share with our members.

HEALTH & SAFETY

- Changes to stage 3 restrictions – A one person per four square metre rule will replace the 100-person limit on indoor gatherings in Stage 3 of the National CovidSafe Framework. Australia remains on track to reach stage three in July. States and territories will decide when to implement the changes. **Learn more.**
- Given the recent spikes in COVID-19 cases across the state, Victorians are being urged to get tested for COVID-19 if they have any symptoms. Almost 90 clinics have been established across [Victoria to test people with cold and flu symptoms](#) for COVID-19, influenza and pneumonia.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

- New Government [HomeBuilder scheme](#) launched to boost residential construction and drive economic activity – HomeBuilder provides eligible owner-occupiers (including first home buyers) with a grant of \$25,000 to build a new home or substantially renovate an existing home. HomeBuilder will assist the residential construction market by encouraging the commencement of new home builds and renovations.
- CCAA welcomed the HomeBuilder scheme as a key part of the full recovery package needed to get Australia moving. Read [release here](#).

HOME BUILDER PACKAGES

- **VIC** - Treasurer Tim Pallas announced the [state will launch its own building and development industry support measures](#) that exceed the federal government's HomeBuilder program. The details are yet to be provided but will be welcome to stimulate a softening home building and apartment market.
- **TAS** - The Tasmanian Government is [lifting the asset and income limits under the successful HomeShare program](#) to support more jobs in building and construction, while helping even more Tasmanians to buy or build their own home. This initiative forms part of the Government's \$3.1 billion construction blitz that aims to get the state's economy back on track.

- **QLD** - The QLD Government has re-affirmed its [commitment to the \\$15,000 first home-owner grants program](#) for any Queensland first home buyers purchasing a new home valued at less than \$750,000. The government will also provide an [additional \\$5,000 grant for people building a new home in a regional location](#), helping to encourage people to move to regional Queensland.
- **WA** - The WA Government has announced a [\\$444 million Housing Stimulus package](#). The package includes: *build, buy, renovate and maintain* social housing; \$20,000 homebuyer grants to build new houses; transfer duty rebates for off-the-plan in multi-tiered developments and stimulus and relief measures in response to COVID-19.

STATE NEWS

- **NSW** - The Government will move from a “response” to “recovery” footing as it steers the state through the biggest economic challenge in a generation as a result of COVID-19. NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet has confirmed that [Support will target key sectors, including construction, skilling and retraining](#), and helping tourism, retail and accommodation get back on their feet.
- **SA** – The SA government has eased border restrictions for people entering South Australia from the Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia. Learn more [here](#).
- **VIC** - Planned Strategic Extractive Resource Area pilot sites in Wyndham and South Gippsland are out for community consultation on the [Engage Victoria](#) website. The Age reported the state government is [considering new planning rules that would protect potential quarry sites](#) that contain sand and rock, materials essential for the road building and other transport projects.
- **WA** – The state’s home building sector is [forecast to recover over the coming twelve months](#), according to the latest HIA Outlook for new home building.
- **WA** - Set to relax [COVID restrictions to Phase 4 from Sat 27 June](#), although the border restrictions will remain in place until community transmission is under control in the eastern states.
- **QLD** - Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has now announced the [next phase in the Government’s economic recovery plan](#).
- **SA** - The Treasurer has confirmed that the existing first home owner grants will remain, and is additional to the Federal Government grant.
- **NSW** - Further stimulus, in addition to the existing packages remains under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION

- **NAT** - **Small projects get \$1.5B federal funding boost**, with the Prime Minister Scott Morrison announcing funding will be allocated to smaller, ready-to-go priority projects.
- **VIC** - The Victorian Government will [fast-track the rectification of buildings with dangerous cladding](#) to make them safer, sooner and create thousands of jobs as the economy rebuilds from the coronavirus pandemic.
- **SA** - As many as 1000 construction jobs will be supported and an estimated \$1 billion in economic activity generated in Adelaide over the next three years, as development begins on the [next stage of South Australia’s iconic Health and Biomedical Precinct](#).

- **TAS** – The Minister for Corrections has committed to build a new \$270 million Northern Regional Prison as part of a plan to invest more than \$350 million in Tasmania’s prison infrastructure, modernising existing facilities while also addressing future capacity. [The plan is expected to deliver substantial jobs, provide a major economic stimulus and support Tasmania’s building and construction sector.](#)
- **NSW** – The NSW Government’s [Planning System Acceleration Program](#) is on track to reach its target of creating opportunities for 30,000 jobs in half the time originally anticipated. The Premier Gladys Berejiklian has just announced a further 19 [Tranche Three](#) planning projects that will have their assessments fast-tracked through the program, which, if approved, will see the state reach its jobs target in three months instead of six.
- **WA** - Over \$700M worth of infrastructure projects have been brought forward to support local jobs and drive the state’s economic recovery. Read about [local infrastructure jobs here](#). Read about [Goldfields road opportunities here](#). Read about the [Armadale Line here](#). And read about the [Tonkin Gap Contract here](#).
- **QLD** – The government has committed a further \$100M [Housing Construction Works for Tradies program](#) – with new social housing to be built across Queensland.

MARKET WRAP UP

- Analytics and actuarial consulting firm Taylor Fry has compiled a [COVID-19 Financial Impact Index](#) that they say, provides decision makers with a granular snapshot of the financial impacts of the pandemic on Australians. The index provides an estimate of reduction in income relative to an individual’s baseline expenses, by post code.
- The way Woolworths and Coles reacted to COVID-19 has been praised, especially the way they moved quickly to help vulnerable Australians. This highlights the need for Australian companies to ensure that they balance the needs of all stakeholders and how community trust and customer satisfaction are important KPIs that need to be considered alongside profitability. Read the [Sydney Morning Herald article here](#).
- Australian business transformation during COVID-19 was covered at CEDA's State of the Nation Conference this week. Cannings Director Jennifer Parker shared highlights and key insights were: Focus on staff first; Learn from overseas experience; Support vulnerable customers; Trust and empower your people to get the job done; Don’t defer – either do it thoroughly and quickly or not at all. [View the post here](#).
- 50 per cent of people who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 were working in sectors that will experience a V-shaped recovery or a fairly quick return, according to Boston Consulting Group. BCG expects 570,000 jobs could be re-established by December, in sectors including healthcare, public administration, utilities and essential retail. But restaurants and sporting events are a different story, with BCG predicting spending at these businesses won’t be as strong as needed to get them rehiring to pre-COVID levels. Read more of the [insights in The AFR](#). (Subscriber access)

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