



Australians have received some positive news on COVID-19 cases, which continue to track down as social distancing measures support a flattening of the curve. The Crisis is continuing to be the focus of headlines, and CCAA has collected the latest news relevant to Construction & Markets, to share with our members.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- CCAA has extended our **COVID-19 Business Continuity Guideline** support kit with a [new animated explainer video](#) and [toolbox talk kit](#) to support members as they work to minimise risk in the supply of our essential products.
- CCAA has also launched a related **E-LEARNING module** to assist member companies to understand and minimise the risk from COVID-19. Taking about 20 minutes to complete, with assessments and a certificate on successful completion.
- Beyond Blue has launched a **Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service**, with an online email community forum and strategies to help people manage their wellbeing and mental health during this time.
- The Australian Government has now received 58 million protective face masks that will help protect frontline health workers at risk of COVID-19. [Read more.](#)

## AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

- The Government has passed legislation for the \$130 billion JobKeeper Payment to keep more Australians in jobs and support businesses affected by the Coronavirus. [Read more.](#)
- A new Higher Education Relief Package will support workers who have been displaced as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and who are looking to upskill or retrain. It will also provide funding certainty to higher education providers. [Read more.](#)
- The Australian Government guarantees domestic aviation network to capital cities and regional centres. [Read more.](#)
- Stay informed. Download the official government "Coronavirus Australia" app in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), or join their **WhatsApp channel** on [iOS](#) or [Android](#).

## STATE GOVERNMENT

- **NSW** - More than 2500 small businesses heavily impacted by COVID-19 have already been approved for grants of up to \$10,000 in the first three days of the NSW Government's [new Small Business Support fund](#).

- **NSW** - Health Minister Brad Hazzard has announced that anyone caught coughing or spitting on any worker will face a \$5000 on-the-spot fine with tough measures introduced now extended to all workers. [Learn more](#).
- **SA** - A new 20-storey complex is set to change Adelaide's skyline, create up to 2,000 jobs during construction and deliver long term savings for South Australian taxpayers. Read the [media release](#).
- **VIC** – The Victorian Government will put aside an additional \$24.5 billion in emergency funding to fight coronavirus, support jobs, and set Victoria up to recover from the pandemic over the next two years. The Bill includes \$10 billion in 2019-20 and \$14.5 billion in 2020-21. More detail in the Treasurer's [media release here](#).
- **TAS** - The Government is focused on Civil, Commercial and Residential construction, as CCAA Contributes to a Ministerial forum to fast-track construction projects in Tasmania with strong support from senior ministers. Read the [media release](#).
- **WA** - New legislation has been announced to support local governments as they respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. They will now have the power to remove restrictions and reduce red tape in order to support businesses and households during the current pandemic and consequent recovery. Read the [media release here](#).
- **WA** - [Good to Go \(G2G\) App](#) has been launched, allowing individuals and businesses to upload their information and apply for approval to cross WA borders or regions. An approval Q-code will support speedy transition through check points.

## CONSTRUCTION

- **CCAA has just released New Policy Priority Documents** for [Victoria](#) & [Tasmania](#), with other states to follow in the next days. The publications outline the core priorities needed to rebuild states, protect lives and create construction jobs, with an efficient heavy construction industry supply chain providing the engine for economic recovery. Stay updated on documents as they are released [here](#).
- **NSW** – Up to 200,000 licence holders operating across the trades and construction sectors will not have to pay up to \$50 million worth of licence fees, the [NSW Government](#) has confirmed.
- **SA** – Construction is underway on the first of [three new SA schools](#), in a major jobs boost for the state's construction industry. The Government media release has announced the combined builds at Aldinga, Angle Vale and Whyalla, will create more than 1000 jobs over the life of the three projects.
- **QLD** - Keeping \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane on track with the relaxation of the heavy vehicle lock out periods during COVID-19. Vehicles greater than 12.5 metres in length will now be able to enter and exit the Queen's Wharf Brisbane PDA between the daily peaks of 7:30am to 9:00am and 4pm and 6:30 pm. [In his announcement](#) Minister Cameron Dick said "The Palaszczuk Government is looking at ways it can support the construction industry to ensure work continues during this difficult time,"

## MARKET - AUSTRALIA

- **Virgin Australia's collapse highlights risks of operating with high debt** - Virgin updated the market this morning noting it has "entered voluntary administration to recapitalise the business and help ensure it emerges in a stronger financial position on the other side of the COVID-19 crisis." Read the ASX statement [here](#) and lessons from Virgin's collapse, including the risks of operating with high debt, in The AFR [here](#). (*Subscriber access*)

- **Privacy the main issue with government tracing app** - As the National Cabinet prepares to wind back the lockdown, Australians will soon be encouraged to download an app designed to help track the spread of COVID-19. But questions about privacy are being raised. Some senior MPs have gone public, saying they would not trust governments - of any stripe - to do the right thing. You can read more [here](#).
- **ATO has begun processing applications for early access to superannuation today.** Hostplus seeks to withdraw \$1.5 billion from one of the biggest property investment funds, ISPT, as it anticipates the possible rush of withdrawals from super funds. The Treasury expects up to \$27 billion will be removed by 1.6 million members nationwide. Read more in The AFR [here](#).  
(Subscriber access)

## GLOBAL MARKET NEWS

- **As the US earnings season begins**, investors are looking for business that can survive the pandemic, repay debts and cling on until lockdowns end, rather than looking for growth, according to the [Financial Times](#). (Subscriber access)
- **Companies in the US, including Amazon and General Motors Co, are exploring ways to undertake mass testing of its employees before they return to work** in order to keep exposure to sick people to a minimum and boost employee confidence. Read the Wall St Journal article [here](#). (Subscriber access)
- **Now that we have got the technology (almost) right, motivating employees remotely is the next challenge people managers are dealing with.** Harvard Business Review writes on how to [keep your team motivated](#) and [three tactics to help support](#) your customer service leaders, as well as a video with some [great practical tips](#) for staying connected while you're apart.