



KEY RESOURCES FOR  
AUSTRALIAN RED MEAT AND  
LIVESTOCK BUSINESSES

+

RED MEAT 2030 PARTNERS

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## Background

- COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection.
- The World Health Organization has announced that COVID-19 is a pandemic, with the situation changing rapidly.
- There has been a country-wide response within Australia that includes measures covering our economy, markets, agriculture, food integrity, health and safety.
- A [National COVID-19 Coordination Commission \(NCCC\)](#) has been established that will coordinate advice to the Australian Government on actions to anticipate and mitigate the economic and social effects of the global coronavirus pandemic.
- Both the Department of Home Affairs National Coordination Mechanism [activated](#) on the 5<sup>th</sup> March, coordinating the cross jurisdictional non-health aspects of COVID-19, and the [Coronavirus Business Liaison Unit](#) based in the Treasury Department will report to the NCCC.
- This toolkit is provided as a summary of announcements and measures currently in place, as well as key information for the red meat and livestock industry.
- The toolkit is current as of: 3:30pm, 3 April 2020 and is a live document. New items will be recognisable by red text.

## Agriculture and Food Integrity

### Border Controls

- Australian Premiers and Chief Ministers [agreed](#) to implement, through state and territory laws, new **Stage 1 restrictions** on social gatherings, to be reviewed on a monthly basis.
- Australians should expect these measures to be in place for at least 6 months.
- The following facilities will be restricted from opening from midday local time 23 March 2020:
  - o Pubs, registered and licenced clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation)
  - o Gyms and indoor sporting venues
  - o Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
  - o Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery
  - o Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies).
- Isolated remote community hubs are not included in these restrictions.
- Other facilities are not impacted, but will be considered under stage 2 restrictions, if necessary.
- These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues.
- Premiers and Chief Ministers will consider further Stage 2 restrictions if social distancing measures are not adhered to.
- Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia have all announced border restrictions.
- Our understanding at the moment is the supply and delivery of essential services (food supply) will be exempt. However, clarity is being sought on the impacts to red meat and livestock, particularly with any Stage 2 restrictions.
- **It is expected that traffic congestion will occur around border control checking points and may result in transport delays. Consider this in terms of livestock transport and plan for it.**
- Federal and State governments have determined that the food supply chain and freight services are essential services and therefore permitted to continue to operate.
- This includes feedlot operations and the provision of goods and services that are used to produce grain fed beef and run feedlot operations. Freight and movements across borders for these

business activities are permitted to continue; keeping in mind human hygiene and social distancing requirements must be in place.

State/Territory	Link
Federal	<p data-bbox="506 217 1966 316">At the meeting of the Agriculture Ministers' Forum (AGMIN) on the 19th March, <a href="#">Ministers reaffirmed</a> the significance of the agriculture sector in Australia. The red meat and livestock industry is currently seeking assurances that our industry will be afforded exemptions as an essential service, as well as seeking consistency of this across all states and territories.</p> <p data-bbox="506 360 1525 387">Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment - <a href="#">Coronavirus advice</a> (general).</p> <p data-bbox="506 432 2033 493">The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) has <a href="#">collated relevant resources</a> including a COVID-19 guide onto one page to assist feedlots and associated businesses.</p> <p data-bbox="506 537 2018 639">The <a href="#">National Heavy Vehicle Regulator announced</a> temporary changes to National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme (NHVAS) medical requirements and face-to-face audit requirements, in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. They also advised they would be maintaining current service levels through the NHVR portal.</p> <p data-bbox="506 684 2033 745">The NHVR has extended the time limit drivers may use a supplementary work diary record as part of COVID-19 support efforts for industry, further details <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p data-bbox="506 790 2002 850"><a href="#">Protocols have been put in place by the Australian Government allow service centres and truck stops to remain open for heavy vehicle drivers, allowing them to eat, shower, use restrooms, refuel and rest.</a></p> <p data-bbox="506 895 640 922"><b>Work Diary</b></p> <p data-bbox="506 935 2009 1070"><a href="#">National Heavy Vehicle Work Diary (COVID-19 Relief) Exemption Notice 2020 (No.1)</a> - The purpose of this Notice is to allow a driver of a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle who is unable to use the driver's written work diary because it is filled up, destroyed, lost or stolen and is unable to get a replacement work diary due to service disruptions created by the Australian Human Biosecurity Emergency (COVID-19) to use <a href="#">supplementary records</a> for up to 30 days.</p> <p data-bbox="506 1115 1693 1142">Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud <a href="#">confirmed</a> agriculture saleyards and auctions can continue.</p> <p data-bbox="506 1187 1906 1248">Shipboard Stockperson Training - Owing LiveCorp has introduced an alternative pathway for accreditation of shipboard stockpersons, due to the current situation with COVID-19. Details <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p data-bbox="506 1292 1960 1353">Beef and Lamb NZ have developed a number of useful guidance documents for farmers. They can be accessed <a href="#">here</a>. Similar guides for hand washing and social distancing have been <a href="#">developed by GrainGrowers</a>.</p>

	RSCPA have developed a briefing paper, sent to Minister for Health Greg Hunt, on the need for animal welfare and primary care services to be recognised as essential services within any border restrictions or lockdown measure in response to COVID-19. The paper is not public, but is in line with red meat and livestock industry requests to consider the entirety of the supply chain.
ACT	<p>No specific government agriculture response at this stage.</p> <p>The ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr has indicated: <i>The ACT cannot close its border but our region can be protected. And we will be working closely with New South Wales and surrounding local government areas to ensure that these measures work effectively.</i></p>
New South Wales	<p>The NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has <a href="#">activated</a> a new specialist Primary Industries Liaison Team and launched an <a href="#">online resource</a> to deal with any agricultural inquiries.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:covidinfo@dpi.nsw.gov.au">covidinfo@dpi.nsw.gov.au</a> for <b>industry COVID-19 related enquiries</b></p> <p><b>A new Department of Regional NSW has been established to coordinate support for communities, businesses and farmers in the bush that have endured drought, bushfire and flood and now face the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</b></p> <p>Information received from NSW Department of Primary Industries - Sarah Britton, Chief Veterinary Officer and Group Director Animal Biosecurity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We are in uncertain times and taking the steps you have outlined will certainly ensure improved welfare and business outcomes. There are 3 key points that I would like to highlight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Being prepared is key to minimising any animal welfare impacts that may arise from a pandemic.</li> <li>o Operators should develop emergency plans for the care and management of animals that account for their individual operations.</li> <li>o A staged plan may be required to address all possible scenarios, including reduced staffing levels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Our animal welfare team is working on animal welfare messaging with NSW Health and emergency teams and I can share that with you once they have the required approvals from Health. Since this is a human disease, then Health leads the response and AAFSA (Agriculture and Animal Functional Supporting agency) assists with any animal associated impacts.</li> <li>- This is coordinated through the State Emergency Operational Centre and many of the decisions to the questions you have posed below are dealt with at that level. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Contingency plans for staffing levels at a feedlot if infected staff or whole teams had to be quarantined for 14 days or more. <b>Covered by Health</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Implications for business continuity and in particular being able to manage the feeding of livestock in the above scenario. <b>Covered by Health</b></li> <li>○ Would state / federal government assist with human resourcing a feedlot under such a scenario or is this a commercial matter? See above</li> <li>○ Would AUSVETPLAN kick in if there was a COVID-19 case in staff on a feedlot (it is understood that the current advice is that there is no evidence livestock or companion animals/pets such as dogs, cats can be infected with the virus)? There is no Ausvetplan as this is a novel human disease. <b>The response is led by Health</b></li> <li>○ What assistance would/ can government provide in relation to the provision of human resources/ and or cattle management in the event of a scenario where the majority of staff on a feedlot need to be quarantined off site? <b>See above</b></li> <li>○ The likelihood of forced/government sanctioned ‘closure’ of a feedlot operation should staff contract the virus and the implications for the operations of a feedlot, including the continued feeding of livestock? <b>See above</b></li> <li>○ Or alternately would feedlots be deemed an ‘essential service’ and as such be afforded the same provisions and not be forced to close? <b>See above</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Territory</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">From 4:00 pm Tuesday 24 March</a>, all non-essential travellers arriving at the Territory borders (road, rail, air and sea) will be required to go through a police control checkpoint to verify their medical status and purpose of their travel into the Territory.</li> <li>- Self-isolation for 14 days upon arrival, with penalties for those who do not comply.</li> <li>- All arrivals including Territory residents will be screened and, if deemed a non-essential visitor, will be told to quarantine themselves. Territory Police and the Public Health Unit will ensure compliance and help people access support where needed.</li> <li>- <b>This will not affect lawful trade or commerce, essential activities will not be impacted, and those providing goods and essential services will be exempt.</b></li> <li>- <b>Transport, freight and logistics are exempt, this includes livestock, beef production and transport of beef interstate and to ships – industry has been advised of the exemption.</b></li> </ul> <p>Within the <a href="#">Chief Health Officer Directive</a> there are three categories that qualify for specific exemptions (though you will still need to apply for exemptions prior to entering the NT using the <a href="#">border arrival</a> form):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Truck Drivers (under s 10 [d])</li> <li>- On-Board Stockmen/Vessel Crew (under s 10 [e])</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specialists (i.e. vets) (under s 10 [g])</li> <li>- A fourth category exists for businesses that would like to continue operating. These businesses will be required to provide a Management Plan for approval by the Chief Health Officer. These are provided for under s 12.</li> <li>- Applicants applying for exemption from self-quarantine requirements are to fill out an Application For Classification as an Exempted Person or Class of Persons form available <a href="#">here</a> or at <a href="http://www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au">www.coronavirus.nt.gov.au</a></li> <li>- Applications for exemption under the directions can be made using one of the following methods: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hand your completed form to an authorised officer on your arrival to the Northern Territory, for forwarding to the Chief Health Officer for assessment.</li> <li>b. Email your completed form to <a href="mailto:DOH.PCC@nt.gov.au">DOH.PCC@nt.gov.au</a></li> <li>c. Lodge online via <a href="http://coronavirus.nt.gov.au">coronavirus.nt.gov.au</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>- A separate application is required for each individual, including children (if applicable).</li> </ul>
<p><b>South Australia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From 4.00pm on Tuesday 24 March, all people entering South Australia will be required to isolate for 14-days from their arrival. This will apply immediately to South Australians, other Australians and other travellers, and will be supported by border control.</li> <li>- <a href="#">SA Cross Border Travel Directive</a></li> <li>- Other travellers (for example fly-in-fly-out workers in the mining industry or national level sporting teams) could be exempt from this provision provided they have approved disease control mechanisms in place.</li> <li>- Exceptions will also be made for those that identify the need to travel across borders for work or livelihoods.</li> <li>- The measure will include exemptions for essential travel to maintain health, the food supply chain, and the State’s economic needs.</li> <li>- The State Coordinator, Commissioner Stevens has made a direction, under the Emergency Management Act 2004.</li> <li>- The direction provides specific detail about the responsibilities of travellers and can be downloaded <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>- Essential travellers will be asked to justify their status if they are spoken to by police at a checking point or any other place in the State.</li> </ul>



	<p>- The officer will then make a final determination and where appropriate allow the traveller to transit into the state uninterrupted, or in other cases the requirements to quarantine under the direction will apply.</p> <p>The South Australian government have <u>established</u> an Export Recovery Taskforce to identify impacts of COVID-19 across export sectors and to coordinate government intervention and support for affected businesses.</p> <p>Peak industry body Food South Australia has launched a new <u>Online Marketplace</u>, aimed at connecting consumers with local food and beverage providers that can take online orders and deliver products.</p>
<b>Tasmania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From midnight, Friday 20 March, all non-essential travellers departing for Tasmania will be <u>required to quarantine</u> for 14 days.</li> <li>- All interstate and international visitors to Tasmania must complete a Tasmanian Arrivals Form. This can be completed <u>online</u> before arriving in Tasmania or upon arrival at terminals in Tasmania.</li> <li>- All Non-Essential Travellers arriving in Tasmania will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Tasmania.</li> <li>- Essential Traveller: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Transport, freight and logistics</li> <li>o Any person who in the carriage of his or her duties is responsible for provision of transport or freight and logistics into, within and out of Tasmania; and</li> <li>o Flight Crew and ship crew, for the limited period of delivery of persons, freight or logistics into, within and out of Tasmania, and for no other purpose.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Freight will continue to come in and out of Tasmania, with TT-Line having capacity to carry extra freight - awaiting further advice from the Tasmanian Government on specifics protocols for the red meat and livestock industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Victoria</b>	<p>The Victorian Deputy Chief Health Officer has issued a second <u>Stay at Home Direction</u> from midnight April 2 2020 to midnight April 13 2020.</p> <p><u>Victorian agriculture and agribusinesses deemed Essential Services</u></p> <p>Agriculture Victoria's COVID-19 <u>response</u>.</p> <p>Two public health emergency orders <u>came into effect 27 March 2020</u>.</p>

	<p>No border restrictions currently in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing Stage 1 of shutdown of non-essential activity across the country from midday 23 March 2020.</li> <li>- Victoria Police established a coronavirus enforcement squad of five hundred officers to ensure containment measures that have been put in place to combat coronavirus are followed.</li> <li>- Includes spot checks on returning travellers who are in 14-day isolation, as well as enforcing the bans on indoor and outdoor gatherings.</li> <li>- Victorian Governments have pledged that stores and services that remain available will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o supermarkets</li> <li>o banks</li> <li>o petrol stations</li> <li>o pharmacies</li> <li>o convenience stores</li> <li>o freight and logistics</li> <li>o food delivery</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Western Australia</b></p>	<p>The WA Government <u>announced</u> the temporary closure of the Western Australian border.</p> <p>From 11.59pm, on Sunday, April 5, people will no longer be able to enter Western Australia without an exemption.</p> <p>Exemptions are currently being finalised, and will include people who perform work functions, like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health services</li> <li>• emergency service workers</li> <li>• transport, freight and logistics</li> <li>• specialist skills, not available in WA</li> <li>• national or State security and governance</li> <li>• courts and judicial services.</li> </ul> <p>It is unclear if agriculture continues to fit within the exemption definitions</p> <p>There are also additional designated area restrictions prohibiting travel between the four local government areas within the Kimberley region, in force from 11.59pm, Thursday 2 April 2020. These are in addition to the <u>access restrictions</u> in place from 9pm, 26 March in the Kimberley, East Pilbara and Ngaanyatjaraku Biosecurity Area. Entry to these areas requires an <u>Entry into Designated Biosecurity Areas Form</u> to be completed.</p>

the same form previously circulated (i.e. the Entry into Designated Biosecurity Areas Form) will need to be filled in and that in addition, the declaration on the third page of the attached document will also need to be filled in and signed. Please note, employment contracts/service contracts along with ID (e.g. driver's licences) will also need to be provided to support entry into the Kimberley/impacted regions.

Further information will be relayed as it comes to hand.

LiveCorp have recommended that exporters immediately consider the risks that a full closure of this area could have on upcoming exports (noting Wyndham and Broome ports fall within this region) if their staff are unable to move into the area.

- From midnight Tuesday, March 31 new Intrastate restrictions will be in place within Western Australia. [Boundary regions and details here](#).
- From 1.30pm (WST) Tuesday, March 24, Western Australia will implement [strict border controls](#) for all access points – by road, rail, air and sea.
- Unless exempted, arrivals from interstate will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Restrictions have been placed on travel to WA's remote Aboriginal communities, with exceptions for delivery of essential services, medical reasons, family or cultural reasons.

Exemptions will apply to essential services and essential workers, including health and emergency services, defence and policing, mining industry workforces, flight crews and freight of essential goods, via ports and trucks – with strict guidelines in place to monitor and manage this.

- There will also be exemptions granted on compassionate grounds and where people live near border communities.
- Arrivals will have to show they meet the essential arrival criteria to be granted an exemption. All arrivals will have to fill out the [Border Arrivals Form](#). There is an 'essential traveller status' section for exemptions.
- Enforcement of the border restrictions will be rolled out with checkpoint stops.
- [WA Government Border Fact Sheet](#)

	<p>- It has been noted there may be further restrictions coming into force with entry requirements for WA. Advice is expected within the next 24 hours (26.03.20)</p>
<p>Queensland</p>	<p>The Queensland government will impose further border from midnight, April 3 2020. The <u>Border restrictions Direction (No.3)</u> from Chief Health Officer in accordance with emergency powers arising from the declared public health emergency</p> <p>A person who arrives in Queensland from another State or Territory of Australia <b>from 12.01 am on Friday 3 April 2020 will not be allowed to enter Queensland, unless they are an <i>exempt person</i>.</b></p> <p>A person is an <i>exempt person</i> if they fall in any of the following classes of persons:</p> <p><b><i>Transport, freight and logistics</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any person who in performing their duties is responsible for provision of services for local passenger transport including bus services, taxi and ride share services, <b>transport or freight of goods, or logistics for the goods, by sea, land or air into, within and out of Queensland</b>, on the condition that the person must practise social distancing wherever possible, including maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 metres where reasonably practicable and remain self-quarantined in their vehicle or accommodation.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Essential business, activity or undertaking</i></b> means a business, activity or undertaking that is not prohibited by the <u><i>Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction (No.4)</i></u></p> <p>- From midnight (AEST) Wednesday, March 25, Queensland will be <u>restricting access at its border</u>.</p> <p>- Measures take effect from midnight tomorrow night and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Border road closures and police checks on vehicles on major highways</li> <li>o Advice to aircraft passengers at departure point that travellers to Queensland will be required to self-isolate for 14 days</li> <li>o Travellers arriving at Queensland airports to be met by police and other officers</li> <li>o Termination of rail services</li> </ul> <p>- Exemptions include:</p>

- Freight
- Emergency vehicles
- Emergency workers
- Those travelling to and from work
- Court orders including family court
- Compassionate grounds
- Medical treatment

- According to the [NHVR](#) Queensland Police have confirmed that **freight vehicles will be let through without paperwork.**

- Anyone travelling to Queensland, not usually resident in Queensland, for any other reason will have to agree to self-isolate for 14 days sick or not.

[Queensland Government media statement.](#)

- A management plan template and a letter from employer (or a letter from the contracting business) will be required for border crossings.

- [Direction from Chief Health Officer](#) - Border Restrictions

- Queensland State Government [declares](#) agriculture an essential service. Essential services also include goods and freight and agribusiness advisors.

- An [online portal](#) to apply for a QLD entry pass has been developed.

- The portal is for non-residents who have a need for essential travel into Queensland, and are covered by an exemption category under the Chief Health Officer's Border Crossing directions. After completing details online, a Queensland Entry Pass will be issued electronically and can be printed at home/in-office and displayed in-vehicle to enable priority passage.

According to [Queensland Police](#) - Essential food, supplies and services are being prioritised.

- Queensland State Government [declares](#) agriculture an essential service. Essential services also include goods and freight and agribusiness advisors.

- Please note **all freight** movements will be exempt from this requirement in the following terms:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o "Any person who in the performance of his or her duties is responsible for provision of services for transport or freight of goods, or logistics for the goods, into, within and out of Queensland, on the condition that the person must practise social distancing wherever possible, including maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 metres where reasonably practicable and remain self-isolate in their vehicle or accommodation"</li> </ul>
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**Further links related to food safety:**

- National link- Australian Institute of Food Safety - [How Does COVID-19 Affect the Food Industry?](#)
- AUS-MEAT and AUS-QUAL - [COVID-19 Policy](#)

**Economic Support**

State/Territory	Link
Federal	<p>The following Commonwealth Bills received Royal Assent on 24 March 2020 (Act Nos. 22-32 of 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coronavirus Economic Response Package Omnibus Act 2020</li> <li>- Boosting Cash Flow for Employers (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</li> <li>- Assistance for Severely Affected Regions (Special Appropriation)(Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</li> <li>- Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 1) 2019-2020</li> <li>- Appropriation (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act (No. 2) 2019-2020</li> <li>- Structured Finance Support (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</li> <li>- Australian Business Growth Fund (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</li> <li>- Guarantee of Lending to Small and Medium Enterprises (Coronavirus Economic Response Package) Act 2020</li> <li>- Supply Act (No. 1) 2020-2021</li> <li>- Supply Act (No. 2) 2020-2021</li> <li>- Supply (Parliamentary Departments) Act (No. 1) 2020-2021</li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">ATO</a> released a '<a href="#">one-stop shop</a>' for tax and super information on COVID-19 Measures.</p> <p>A Regional Air Network Assistance Package worth \$198 million has been <u>announced</u>.</p>

Parliament will not resume until August 11, 2020, and [approved](#):

- \$40 billion discretionary fund for the finance minister, for unforeseen events from July 1.
- Any spend over \$1 billion will require consultation with Opposition.

Federal Government's \$66.1 billion second economic support package [announced](#):

*Assistance to business to keep people in a job*

- Boosting Cash Flow for Employers:

- o Providing up to \$100,000 to eligible SMEs, and not-for-profits (including charities) that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000.
- o Payments intended to help businesses' and NFPs cash flow so they can keep operating, pay their rent, electricity and other bills and retain staff.
- o Employers will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld (up from 50 per cent), with the maximum payment being increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Additionally, the minimum payment is being increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000. The payment will be available from 28 April 2020.
- o The payments are tax free, there will be no new forms and payments will flow automatically through the ATO.
- o Eligibility:
  - SMEs - aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million + employ workers.
  - NFPs entities, including charities - aggregated annual turnover under \$50 million + employ workers.

*Regulatory protection and financial support for businesses to stay in business*

- Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme
  - o Government will guarantee 50 per cent of new loans issued by eligible lenders to SMEs.
  - o The Government's support will enhance lenders' willingness and ability to provide credit to SMEs with the Scheme able to support \$40 billion of lending to SMEs.
- Providing temporary relief for financially distressed businesses
  - o Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive.

*Support for workers and households*

- Coronavirus supplement
  - o Temporarily expanding eligibility to income support payments and establishing a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight. This will be paid to both existing and new recipients of the

JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance jobseeker, Parenting Payment, Farm Household Allowance and Special Benefit.

- Paid for the next 6 months.
- Payments to support households
  - a further \$750 payment to social security and veteran income support recipients and eligible concession card holders, except for those who are receiving an income support payment that is eligible to receive the Coronavirus supplement.
- Early release of superannuation
  - The Government will allow individuals in financial stress as a result of the Coronavirus to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21.
  - Will not be taxed and will not affect Centrelink/Veteran Affairs payments.
- Reducing social security deeming rates
  - reducing the deeming rates by a further 0.25 percentage points to reflect the latest rate reductions by the RBA

#### *Support for the aviation industry*

- Previously announced
  - Government providing up to \$715 million in support for Australian airlines and airports, which will ensure that our aviation sector receives timely cash flow support through an unprecedented period of disruption to international and domestic air travel.

[First Economic Response to the Coronavirus](#), \$17.6 billion economic plan. The targeted stimulus package has four parts:

- Supporting business investment
- Providing cash flow assistance for SMEs to stay in business and keep their employees in jobs
- Targeted support for the most severely affected sectors, regions and communities
- Household stimulus payments that will benefit the wider economy
- The Government is also offering administrative relief for certain tax obligations, including deferring tax payments up to four months.

\$15 billion to enable smaller lenders to continue supporting Australian consumers and small businesses with low-cost loans.

Cash rate target reduced to 0.25 per cent - [RBA](#)

Prime Minister Scott Morrison [advised agreements](#) from an extraordinary G20 Summit that G20 economies are injecting trillions in the global economy.



	<p>The Morrison Government <u>will inject an extra \$49.8 million into the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) program</u> in the 2019-20 financial year, allowing exporters and tourism businesses to get additional reimbursements for costs incurred in marketing their products and services around the world.</p> <p>The Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM) <u>announced</u> \$250 million of Australian Business Securitisation Fund (ABSF) funding for Australian SMEs</p> <p>The Government launched a new Jobs Hub highlighting businesses and organisations who have multiple jobs on offer. An up to date list of businesses and organisations that are currently hiring, and how to contact them, can be found <u>here</u>.</p>
<p><b>ACT</b></p>	<p>ACT Government has <u>announced</u> a \$137 million dollar package. Further stimulus announcements likely over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$150 rates rebate for every household</li> <li>○ \$200 rebate to households receiving the utilities concession</li> <li>○ Vehicle registration, public transport ticketing and parking fees to be frozen at current levels</li> </ul> <p>Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$2,622 credit to commercial rates bill</li> <li>○ \$750 rebate to small businesses through their next electricity bill</li> <li>○ Businesses that pay up to \$10m in wages will be able to defer payroll tax for 12 months</li> <li>○ Affected industries will receive a one-off six month waiver on payroll tax</li> <li>○ Taxi and rideshare fees waived</li> <li>○ Food and liquor licence fees waived</li> <li>○ \$20m fund for simple infrastructure works on public buildings</li> <li>○ Funding for clubs to retain casual staff</li> <li>○ Public sector staff in events or entertainment redeployed to maintenance works</li> </ul> <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$500,000 in arts grant funding brought forward</li> <li>○ \$7m package for non-government organisations to meet increased demand for social services</li> <li>○ Additional funding for Lifeline</li> </ul>

<p><b>New South Wales</b></p>	<p>The NSW Government <a href="#">announced</a> a \$750 million Small Business Support Fund as the centrepiece of its third wave of economic support measures.</p> <p>The NSW Government has made changes to the <a href="#">Environmental Planning and Assessment (COVID-19 Development – Takeaway Food and Beverages) Order 2020</a> The order allows food trucks to operate on any land at any time, with the landholder’s permission. It also allows ‘dark kitchens’ to be established in any existing commercial kitchen.</p> <p>The New South Wales Government announced a second stimulus package, including a \$1 billion fund for jobs. More details <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The New South Wales Government has <a href="#">announced</a> a \$2.3 billion coronavirus stimulus package, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$700 million to boost services NSW Health</li> <li>○ \$450 million to wave payroll tax for businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million for 3 months.</li> <li>○ \$80 million to waive fees and charges for small businesses in the café and restaurant trades</li> <li>○ \$250 million for public schools and state-owned buildings for cleaners.</li> <li>○ \$750 million will be spent on capital works and maintenance of public assets</li> </ul>
<p><b>Northern Territory</b></p>	<p>The Northern Territory (NT) Government <a href="#">announced</a> a \$65 million Jobs Rescue and Recovery plan, and an additional \$50 million fund to support small business.</p>
<p><b>South Australia</b></p>	<p>A further \$1 billion package <a href="#">announced</a>:</p> <p><b>Payroll tax relief (Up to \$60 million of savings to business)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 6-month waiver for all businesses with an annual payroll (grouped) up to \$4 million</li> <li>○ Eligible businesses won’t have to pay any payroll tax from April to September</li> <li>○ This measure is expected to assist up to 2,400 businesses and save them up to \$84,000 over the six months (average saving \$25,000)</li> <li>○ Employers with grouped annual wages above \$4 million able to defer payroll tax payments for 6 months on demonstration of significant impacts on cash flow of coronavirus</li> <li>○ Around 4,300 businesses will be able to access this payroll deferral and is expected to increase overall cash flow by around \$580 million.</li> </ul> <p><b>Land tax relief (Up to \$13 million in additional savings)</b></p>

- From July, the Government's significant land tax reforms will kick in, delivering \$189m in savings to investors and landlords over the next three years.
- Under the new measures, individuals and businesses with outstanding quarterly bills for 2019-20 able to defer payments for 6 months (up to 28,000 private land tax ownerships will benefit)
- For 2020-21 Land Tax Transition Fund relief will be increased from 50% to 100% based on existing relief criteria guidelines – saving some investors up to \$50,000

**Fees and Charges**

- Waiver of liquor licence fees for 2020-21 for those hotels, restaurants, cafes and clubs forced to close as a result of new social distancing restrictions

**\$300 million Business and Jobs Support Fund**

- A fund to support individual businesses and industry sectors directly affected by coronavirus, and face potential collapse – and the loss of thousands of jobs – as a result

**\$250 million Community and Jobs Fund**

- A fund to support community organisations, sporting, arts and recreational bodies, non-profit organisations as well as some industry sectors whose operations have been impacted by the coronavirus
- Will also help with training of South Australians seeking new skills and employment and to assist organisations meet increased demand for services including emergency relief.

**Cost of Living Concessions (An estimated additional benefit of about \$30 million)**

- A once-off boost of \$500 and bring forward the 2020-21 'Cost of Living Concession' for households who are receiving the Centrelink JobSeeker Payment, assisting those who are unemployed or lose their jobs as a result of the coronavirus restrictions.
- For eligible homeowners, their 2020-21 payment of \$215.10 will now become \$715.10. Eligible tenants will receive \$607.60.

\$350 million stimulus package [announced](#). Exact details difficult to find.

- Double the Planning and Development Fund available this year to \$50 million, when matched with the local government contribution on a 50:50 basis.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The state government is bringing forward investment on some road and hospital upgrades, and also injecting funds into tourism infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Steven Marshall MP <u>announced</u> \$120 million in new infrastructure projects to support local jobs has been fast-tracked.</p>
<b>Tasmania</b>	<p>Total Support and Stimulus package <u>announced to date</u> = \$985 million.</p> <p><b>Businesses and Jobs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government fees will be frozen, waived and capped, including water and electricity.</li> <li>○ Fees and charges relating to the roads component of motor tax for heavy vehicles and vehicle registration where that business has been severely impacted because of measures taken to manage COVID-19 also waived.</li> <li>○ Payroll tax waivers for the hospitality, tourism and seafood sectors, and for Tasmanian businesses with payrolls less \$5 million</li> <li>○ Boost funding for Rapid Response Skills Initiative with an additional \$6.3 million.</li> <li>○ Extended the Local Government Loan Scheme from \$50 million to \$150 million. This is in addition to bringing forward \$50 million of maintenance in public buildings and assets, including public housing, announced previously.</li> <li>○ The Government will also provide \$2.6 million towards an air freight service for time sensitive freight</li> </ul> <p>Additional for small business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase the Small Business Interest Free Loan Scheme from \$20 million to \$50 million which is now available for businesses with turnovers less than \$10 million.</li> <li>○ A new \$40 million Small Business Grants Program with \$20 million set aside for an emergency grants program of \$2500 cash payments.</li> <li>○ A Digital Ready for Business Program, to assist businesses take their business online.</li> <li>○ Business Continuity Advice with \$750,000 in funding made available for businesses to seek cashflow and continuity advice, including a \$50,000 grant to Small Business Council of Tasmania. A further \$200,000 will be provided to the THA to provide business continuity and cashflow advice, and \$200,000 will be provided to Rural Business Tasmania for the extension of its Rural Financial Counselling service.</li> </ul> <p>Further health, household, individual and community support is detailed in the announcement.</p>
<b>Victoria</b>	<p>The Victorian government <u>launched a \$50 million <i>Agriculture Workforce Plan</i></u> providing practical support for critical food industries, helping the sector and regional communities.</p>

	<p>\$1.7 billion economic survival and jobs package <a href="#">announced</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Full payroll tax refunds for the 2019-20 financial year to small and medium-sized businesses with payroll of less than \$3 million.</li> <li>○ The same businesses will also be able to defer any payroll tax for the first three months of the 2020/21 financial year until 1 January 2021</li> <li>○ Commercial tenants in government buildings can apply for rent relief and 2020 land tax payments will be deferred for eligible small businesses. Private landlords are also being encouraged to follow suit.</li> <li>○ Government will pay all outstanding supplier invoices within five business days</li> <li>○ \$500 million <i>Business Support Fund</i> supporting the hardest hit sectors, including hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and entertainment, and retail.</li> <li>○ \$500 million <i>Working for Victoria Fund</i> in consultation with the Victorian Council of Social Services and Victorian Trades Hall Council.</li> <li>○ The 2020-21 Victorian Budget will be deferred – in line with all other Australian Governments and agreed by National Cabinet.</li> </ul> <p>The Victorian Chamber has given all Victorian businesses free access to its expert services and advice lines by waiving membership fees for our two entry level memberships for all businesses and providing \$500 credit to existing members for training and services.</p> <p>Premier Daniel Andrews <a href="#">announced</a> payroll tax refunds have now hit bank accounts of 2,700 small businesses.</p>
<p><b>Western Australia</b></p>	<p>The Western Australia has <a href="#">announced</a> a third economic and health relief package worth \$1billion. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Further relief for households experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19, including extension of the Energy Assistance Payment, no disconnections for power and water and additional support for Keystart customers</li> <li>● \$502 million for small businesses including a reduction in electricity bills, licences fees waived, and additional payroll tax relief</li> <li>● New initiatives to apply until September 30, 2020</li> <li>● An additional \$500 million allocated to health and other frontline service delivery, and capacity for additional industry support</li> <li>● Budget deferred until October 8, 2020 for Government to focus on COVID-19</li> </ul>

	<p>West Australian Government <a href="#">announced</a> a \$607 million economic stimulus package. The package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$607 million stimulus package to support WA households and small businesses in the wake of COVID-19</li> <li>○ \$402 million to freeze household fees and charges until at least July 1, 2021</li> <li>○ Freeze will apply to entire 'household basket', including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, emergency services levy and public transport fares</li> <li>○ Energy Assistance Payment (EAP) doubled to \$600 to support vulnerable Western Australians, including pensioners</li> <li>○ \$114 million in additional measures to support small businesses</li> <li>○ Small businesses that pay payroll tax will receive a one-off grant of \$17,500</li> <li>○ \$1 million payroll tax threshold brought forward by six months to July 1, 2020</li> <li>○ Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can defer payroll tax payments until July 21, 2020</li> </ul>
<p><b>Queensland</b></p>	<p>\$4 billion package <a href="#">announced</a>.</p> <p>\$27.25 Million Coronavirus Aid Package <a href="#">announced</a>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$7 million in international tourism promotion</li> <li>○ \$4.8 million targeted for the Tropical Far North and Gold Coast regions</li> <li>○ Waiving fees for fishers</li> <li>○ Waiving fees associated with liquor licences</li> <li>○ Deferring tourism lease payments</li> <li>○ Rebates for marina and jetty fees</li> <li>○ Waive quota fees for rock lobster and coral trout</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Rural and Regional Adjustment (COVID–19 Jobs Support Loan Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2020</a> - The objective of the scheme is to assist Queensland businesses and non-profit organisations financially impacted by COVID-19 to retain employees and maintain their operations.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Business Queensland</a> are providing assistance for businesses impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak through the Market Diversification and Resilience Grants (MDRG) program- <a href="#">priority will be given to businesses directly impacted by the coronavirus outbreak.</a></p>
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## Health

State/Territory	Link
Federal	<p>Australian Government Department of Health - <a href="#">COVID-19 health alert</a>, including current status and updates.</p> <p><a href="#">Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020</a></p> <p><a href="#">Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Bill 2020</a> tabled.</p> <p>New Funding - \$13 million in competitive funding: \$8 million for research into antiviral therapies and \$5 million for clinical trials to better treat and manage COVID-19 patients with severe acute respiratory distress.</p> <p>From Wednesday 25 March, A national <a href="#">Australian Government</a> text message will be sent to all Australian mobile phones reading:  “Coronavirus Aus Gov msg: To stop the spread, stay 1.5m from others, follow rules on social gatherings, wash hands, stay home if sick. aus.gov.au”</p>
ACT	<p><a href="#">ACT Department of Health</a></p> <p>Coronavirus Health Information Line: 1800 020 080</p> <p>Communicable Diseases Control information line on 5124 9213 for anyone on listed flights to/from Canberra on Sunday March 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FLIGHT 1: 6.45am QF1509 Sydney to Canberra, and</li> <li>• FLIGHT 2: 2.35pm VA651 Canberra to Sydney.</li> </ul>
New South Wales	<p><a href="#">NSW Health</a></p> <p>Healthdirect: 1800 022 222</p>
Northern Territory	<p><a href="#">NT Department of Health</a></p> <p>COVID Hotline: 1800 008 002</p> <p>If in Darwin, call Public Health Unit for testing: 8922 8044</p>
South Australia	<p><a href="#">SA Health</a></p> <p>If an individual has COVID-19 symptoms, advised to contact GP or visit a COVID-19 clinic to seek testing. Can also call the National Coronavirus Information Hotline on 1800 020 080</p>

Tasmania	<a href="#">Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services</a> <a href="#">Primary Health Tasmania</a> Tasmanian Public Health Hotline, 1800 671 738  State of emergency <a href="#">declared</a> in Tasmania. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From midnight, Friday 20 March, all non-essential travellers departing for Tasmania will be required to quarantine for 14 days.</li> </ul>
Victoria	<a href="#">Victoria Health and Human Services</a> Dedicated COVID-19 Hotline 1800 675 398
Western Australia	<a href="#">WA Department of Health</a> Coronavirus Health Information Line 1800 020 080
Queensland	<a href="#">Queensland Health</a> 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)  The first GP-led rural respiratory clinic established as part of the Australian Government's \$2.4 billion health package to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak has opened today in Emerald, Queensland.

## Business Intelligence

- The Federal Government has launched a Coronavirus Australia app and WhatsApp feature, details [here](#).
- Helpline for businesses impacted by COVID-19 : 13 28 46, operating 7 days per week, 7am - 11pm AEST.
  - My Business Health, a web portal providing holistic support to small business owners, now features a [dedicated section](#) for those struggling with the COVID-19 crisis.
- Australian banks will defer loan repayments for small businesses affected by COVID-19 for six months- [Australian Banking Association announcement](#).
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Snap-shot of Commonwealth, State and Territory response](#)
- Australian Meat Industry Council COVID-19 real time updates for: [People, Product + Business](#).
- [Treasury's Business Liaison Unit](#).
- [ABS products](#) to measure the economic impact of the coronavirus.
- Fair Work Ombudsman hotline: 13 13 94 and [website](#) set up to answer specific workplace-related questions.
- [Coronavirus and corporations — What you need to know](#)
- [Is the coronavirus infecting your business contracts?](#)



- [ACCC Information for consumers](#) - event/travel cancellations, product price increases.
- The ACCC has also adjusted the focus of its regulatory activities due to the impact of COVID-19.
- APRA [confirmed](#) a regulatory approach to the COVID-19 support packages.
- [Further Cabinet agreed restrictions](#) - in place from midnight, Wednesday 25 March. These activities and businesses will no longer be allowed to continue:
  - Amusement parks and arcades
  - Indoor and outdoor play centres
  - Community and recreation centres, health clubs, fitness centres, yoga, barre, spin facilities, saunas, wellness centres
  - Public swimming pools
  - Galleries, museums, national institutions, historic sites, libraries, community centres
  - Auction houses
  - Real estate auctions and open house inspections
  - In-store beauty therapy, tanning, waxing, nail salons and tattoo parlours, spa and massage parlours (excluding allied-health-related services, like physiotherapy)
  - Food courts within shopping centres only be able to sell takeaway. Shopping centres themselves will remain open

Specific restrictions on other activities:

- Hairdressers and barber shops - customer limited to 30 minutes on premises
- Personal training and boot camps limited to a maximum of 10 people
- Weddings - maximum of five people
- Funerals are limited to a maximum of 10 people
- Outdoor and indoor food markets will be addressed by individual states and territories
- Prime Minister Scott Morrison has discussed a potential “Business Hibernation Plan”, further details will be announced with the third round of economic measures.
- Australia’s banks will extend the six month deferral of loans, building on the ABA’s Small Business Relief Package, to 30,000 more businesses across the country. This support now extends to 98% of all businesses with a loan from an Australian bank.
- Changes have been temporarily made to the Foreign Investment Framework, designed to protect Australia’s national interest through COVID-19.
- **The Morrison Government has introduced major changes to the foreign investment review regime which will remain in place for the duration of the COVID-19 crises. Effective from 29 March 2020, the measures impact a range of transactions by imposing:**
  - A blanket requirement for Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval on all proposed foreign investment transactions.
  - An extension to the FIRB review timeframes from 30 days to six months.

If you are entering into transactions involving foreign investment and need to learn more about these changes, you can [click here](#).

- [Rabobank released](#) its April Agribusiness Monthly, noting that despite significant challenges from the global economic downturn and downward pressure on commodity prices, Australia’s agricultural sector is in a good position to “weather the COVID-19 storm”.

## Markets

- An [International Freight Assistance Mechanism](#) is being established by government including \$110 million to help exporters get their high-quality produce into key overseas markets, and the [appointment of an International Freight Coordinator-General](#).
- Joint [ministerial statement](#) by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore- collective response to combat COVID-19, commitment to maintaining open and connected supply chains.
- [Rabobank Coronavirus Food + Agribusiness](#)  
[MLA Prices + Markets](#) (NB no specific COVID-19 resource currently)
- [Austrade](#) updates for exporters.
- Australia and 15 other members of the World Trade Organization [have agreed to establish](#) an interim arrangement to bring appeals and solve trade disputes.

## Retail

- [ACCC grants](#) interim authorisation allowing supermarkets to coordinate with each other when working with manufacturers, suppliers, and transport and logistics providers.
- Major supermarkets [Coles](#), [Woolworths](#) and [Aldi](#), as well as [Lion and Unilever](#) have announced a range of measures to support customers, team members and the community.
- Qld has [brought in new laws](#) to allow 24-hour restocking in supermarkets. [NSW and VIC have followed suit](#), removing supermarket curfews.

## Miscellaneous

Safety

State/Territory	Link
Federal	Various links related to health and safety in the workplace available <a href="#">here</a> .
ACT	<a href="#">Safe Work Australia</a>
New South Wales	<a href="#">Safework NSW</a>
Northern Territory	<a href="#">SecureNT</a> Other resources: <a href="https://securent.nt.gov.au/alerts/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources">https://securent.nt.gov.au/alerts/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/resources</a>
South Australia	<a href="#">SafeWork SA</a> <a href="#">SA Health link for Business and Industry</a>

Tasmania	<a href="#">WorkSafe Tasmania</a>
Victoria	<a href="#">WorkSafe Victoria</a>  A Veterinary Practice Amendment Regulation 2020 has been released in NSW prescribing additional details of continuing professional development undertaken by a veterinary practitioner that are to be included in the practitioner's annual return to the Veterinary Practitioners Board - including online training.
Western Australia	<a href="#">WorkCover WA</a> - refers to Department of Health website for further information. <a href="#">WA Business and Industry Advice</a>
Queensland	<a href="#">Work Cover Queensland</a>