



MEDIA RELEASE

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VTA welcomes additional Victorian Government support

The Victorian Transport Association has welcomed the Victorian Government's \$535 million Business Support Package to help Victorian businesses through the re-imposition of Stage 3 lockdown restrictions.

This latest support package is additional to \$6 billion of economic relief already invested since the coronavirus pandemic began and includes cash grants for struggling businesses, mental health support for business owners, relief for tourism operators and targeted advice for businesses.

The Government's expansion of the Business Support Fund is intended to provide more than 80,000 eligible businesses with a new \$5,000 grant to support them through the renewed Stage 3 restrictions. Businesses will also benefit from an extended and expanded payroll tax deferral, with eligible businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million able to defer their liabilities for the first half of the 2020/21 financial year.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson said whilst the freight industry had not been as hard hit by the economic downturn unleashed by the coronavirus, many operators servicing industry sectors such as hospitality and tourism operators were benefitting from stimulus provided by the government.

"We've learned throughout this pandemic that it's important to support employers with the tools they need to keep their staff employed and connected to their business," he said.

"Many freight operators have been busier than ever as a response to heightened consumer demand with more people working and learning from home, however others have been less fortunate because they service industries that have experienced a downturn.

"The Victorian Government is to be congratulated for supporting businesses during the unfortunate resumption of Stage 3 lockdown restrictions and for recognising that we need to sustain them during the pandemic so that they can be in a position to recover on the other side," Anderson said.

Anderson said the VTA remained open for business to support members and provide timely advice during the resumption of Stage 3 lockdown.

"Our Webb Dock headquarters is open and fully staffed under strict hygiene and social distancing guidelines, and we are available 24/7 to support members with advice and information pertinent to COVID-19 transport guidelines and requirements, along with our usual advisory services," he said.

"Members are urged to note and bookmark our Coronavirus Information Page which contains updated information on border crossing restrictions, state and federal economic support packages, COVID-Safe business practices and other vital information to support our members."

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