



victoriantransportassociation^{inc.}



victorian
waste management association[®]

3rd August 2020

VTA - Tough new measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission in Victoria

Victoria is in crisis, and as we enter a period of unprecedented restrictions on our personal freedoms and our ability to work, it is essential that we come together to understand the challenges we face, and work in unison to stop the spread of coronavirus and the havoc it is wreaking across our state.

The Victorian Government has announced tougher restrictions, with a [State of Disaster](#) now in effect until September 13 across the whole state. This will create the following additional restrictions on movement in the community:

Melbourne

- Melbourne is moving to [stage 4](#) restrictions. A curfew will apply each night during the State of Disaster period from 8pm-5am. The only reason people may leave their home during this time is to receive care, provide care or go to work.
- The current stay at home order continues with extra restrictions – people may only shop within 5 km of their home once per day, with exercise limited to once per day within 5 km of your home (with one other person).

Regional Victoria

- Regional Victoria will move to [stage 3](#) restrictions from Thursday 6 August.

All students across Victoria will resume remote learning from home from Wednesday 5 August. Provisions will be made available for students with special needs/parents who must attend work.

Impact on industry of tighter restrictions

Today, Premier Daniel Andrews has outlined additional restrictions around work which will have massive repercussions for our state and national economy, and of course supply chains. There are three categories of businesses under the new arrangements, with new trading requirements to take effect from 11.59pm Wednesday, 5 August:

- **Business largely as normal:** This will include shops like supermarkets, butchers, greengrocers, takeaway food outlets and pharmacies, which are permitted to trade;
- **Reduced total output:** These businesses may be instructed to reduce output, which would result in fewer shifts and therefore less contact between workers;
- **Businesses that will close:** Some businesses will be told to move to a work-from-home model. If they cannot, they must stop operating.

A complete list of business and industries and the adjustments they will be required to make is available [here](#).

The transport and logistics industries will continue to be able to operate over the coming period in order to support the distribution of essential goods, and to support those businesses that are permitted to operate with their supply chain requirements.

Warehouses and distribution centres will be limited to no more than two-thirds of their normal workforce allowed onsite at any one time and will be required to have a High-Risk COVID Safe plan in place. The VTA will provide further information on this as soon as it is available.

In formulating the new arrangements, the government has recognised the vital role of our industry so that state and national supply chain disruptions are minimised, and Victorians have uninterrupted access to fresh food, groceries, medicine and petrol. In his press conference yesterday, the premier was right to emphasise the complexity of national supply chains and that Melbourne has the biggest container port in Australia which must remain fully operational to facilitate national and international trade.

He clearly gets that the nation cannot afford to shut down because of what's happening in Victoria, as evidenced by the exemptions afforded the industry.

Support for businesses impacted by new restrictions

This does not mean transport operators won't experience a significant downturn during the State of Disaster period. Clearly operators that service businesses that have been required to close or reduce their total output will be impacted to varying levels.

Information about support and benefits from the Victorian Government to assist businesses, families and individuals is available from the Department of Health and Human Services [website](#), including entitlements that can be claimed for being tested and being positive for coronavirus.

I also encourage you to bookmark and visit the VTA [Coronavirus Information](#) page which contains important links to Commonwealth and Victorian Government support that is available to support businesses during the pandemic and keep them connected to their workers.

Since coronavirus took hold in February, the transport industry has shown leadership and adapted its systems and processes to be able to safely and efficiently service the needs of customers and consumers and keep supply chains moving.

As we prepare for further restrictions to their lives and livelihoods, let's all heed the advice of state and Commonwealth jurisdictions and work together so that we can reduce community transmission, and start to get our economy back on a positive footing as soon as possible.

The VTA is a tremendous resource during unprecedented times like this and will remain open and available to assist members. I urge you to contact us for assistance and advice on (03) 9646 8590.