



Australian Road Transport
Industrial Organisation

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The Courier

Information and Advice for NSW Transport Operators

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For information, advice and support on any issue related to COVID-19, please contact Hugh McMaster, ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer, email: hughmc@artionsw.com.au; telephone: 0412 880861

24/7 NSW Government COVID-19 hotline, 13 77 88

24/7 ACT Government COVID-19 Hotline, 1800 020 080

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Message from ARTIO NSW Secretary/Treasurer

The ARTIO NSW secretariat is responding to an unprecedented number of requests for assistance and advice from Members.

As a Member's first organisation, ARTIO NSW's responsibility anticipate your needs by providing timely, relevant and accurate advice to meet your needs and expectations.

The advice we are seeking, and the information we are sourcing, is from a wide range of sources and aims to address diverse industry needs.

That's because the road transport industry is diverse.

It connects every Australian industry, business and household.

Sources increasingly other organisations in the industry where there is a heightened sense of co-operation, and other government agencies with which we do not normally deal.

For the foreseeable future, our focus will be on COVID-19 and its impacts, whether they be related to health and hygiene, to taxation, to assistance for business, to industrial law, to WHS law, to the National Heavy Vehicle Law, to general road and traffic law, to international trade, to the economy or any other issue that affects your business in what are very challenging times.

Please look out for more regular but shorter issues of *The Courier*, but also our ARTIO NSW Information Circulars which will also provide you with information and advice.

COVID-19: Stopping the Spread: Advice from the NSW Government

The following advice has been provided by the NSW Government:

Help stop the spread of COVID-19

From 31 March 2020, you must stay at home, unless you are going to

- work and education, where you can't work remotely
 - shop for food and essentials
 - medical needs or the care of others
 - exercise.

Existing rules around 10 people at funerals and 5 people at weddings still apply.

- If you go out, stay 1.5 metres away from other people at all times.
 - Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

Do not gather in public with more than 2 people except

- for members of the same household
- where the gathering is essential for work or education.

These new restrictions are legally enforceable.

Anyone could spread the virus, even without knowing.

Together we can help stop the spread of COVID-19.

For further information, please visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.

COVID-19: Pharmacists in NSW Allowed to Stay Open 24/7

Adapted from media release, Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon Brad Hazzard MP, 31 March 2020

The Minister for Health and Medical Research Brad Hazzard, said a special authority has been granted to community pharmacists to assist people who can't access their GP.

Mr Hazzard said pharmacies are also now able to operate 24 hours a day.

He said the NSW Government is also addressing the over-supply of prescription and over-the-counter medicines and recently introduced new limits to ensure equitable access.

"I want to remind the community to not panic buy, not abuse staff, and be respectful of people who hold a very special place on the frontline of our fight to keep the community safe and well," Mr Hazzard said.

He said families can also take advantage of an initiative announced earlier this year, enabling pharmacists to administer flu vaccines to anyone over 10 years.

COVID-19: Don't Travel to Regional Communities: Stay at Home

Adapted from media release, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro MP, 31 March 2020

Non-essential travel to regional NSW towns and remote communities must be cancelled and Easter holidaymakers should indefinitely postpone their visits, in line with the nationwide effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, according to Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro.

Mr Barilaro said "National Cabinet has clearly asked everyone to stay at home unless they are shopping for essentials, are receiving medical care, are undertaking daily exercise or are attending work or school."

"My message today is simple, now is not the time to travel from metropolitan areas to regional NSW for a holiday, for meetings, or even to relocate yourselves for a longer period - the safest thing you can do right now is stay in your community."

"This also applies to people living in regional NSW towns, because the virus does not discriminate and does not care about borders, so now is not the time to travel between towns, whether it be for meetings or even to visit family and friends.

"To help slow the spread we need to do the right thing by our families, friends and neighbours, which means staying 1.5 metres away from others, avoid social gatherings, wash hands and ensure that if you are sick, that you self-isolate."

Mr Barilaro said help is available to people across regional NSW, particularly people who are isolated and the elderly, and encouraged anyone who needs a hand to call the NSW Government's COVID-19 hotline on 13 77 88.

COVID-19: Queensland to Tighten Border Restrictions on 3 April; Freight Access Unaffected

Adapted from media release, Queensland Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, The Hon Mark Ryan MP, 1 April 2020

Queensland border restrictions will be tightened across the state from Friday to prevent the spread of COVID-19 according to Queensland Police Minister, Mark Ryan.

Anyone who is not a Queensland resident or considered exempt from the restrictions will not be able to enter Queensland from 12.01am Friday, April 3, 2020.

He said people with an exemption must have a border pass prior to crossing the border.

If they don't have a border pass then they will be turned around

Freight transport services are exempt and will be allowed through without a border pass permit.

Mr Ryan said the restrictions will replace the current arrangements which enable people to cross the border provided they self-quarantine for 14 days.

COVID-19: WorkSafe Victoria Issues Logistics Safety Alert

Adapted from article, OHS Alert, 31 March 2020

Worksafe Victoria has warned that the number of to shops, homes and DCs has increased due to COVID-19, creating a range of work health and safety issues for the transport and logistics sector.

It says risks relate to workers:

- working longer shifts,
- travelling at unusual times;
- performing more loading and unloading work;
- having fewer opportunities for vehicle maintenance;
- experiencing increased traffic at distribution and shopping centres; and
- exposure to COVID-19,

WorkSafe Victoria has issued a safety alert which is available at <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-alerts/increased-demand-transport-and-logistics>.

COVID-19: Federal Government Announces International Freight Assistance Mechanism: Export Primary Produce; Import Medical Supplies

Adapted from media release, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, The Hon Michael McCormack MP, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, The Hon Simon Birmingham MP, Minister for Agriculture, The Hon David Littleproud MP and Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Senator The Hon Jonathon Duniham MP, 1 April 2020

A new \$110 million initiative will back Australia's agricultural and fisheries sector by helping them export into key overseas markets, with return flights bringing back vital medical supplies, medicines and equipment.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack said the International Freight Assistance Mechanism would help secure freight flights into Australia's key export markets.

"This will help restore key freight routes...until commercial capacity can be restored again," Mr McCormack said.

Federal Trade Minister Simon Birmingham said the COVID-19 pandemic had led to major air freight shortages and had disrupted supply chains around the world.

"This temporary action will help Australian producers to protect the jobs of those who rely upon Australia's export of safe, quality food into the world," Mr Birmingham said.

Federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud said this initiative would focus on high-demand agricultural and fisheries exports who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis.

The International Freight Assistance Mechanism will initially focus on the key markets of China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UAE, with four key departure hubs: Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

It will be overseen by Michael Byrne, former Managing Director of Toll Group and Linfox, who has been appointed as the International Freight Coordinator General.

Mr Byrne will work with Austrade to help establish arrangements with exporters, airlines, freight forwarders and industry bodies plus oversee the mechanism's operations including advising the Government of destinations, freight selection and prioritisation.

Further details are available in the International Freight Assistance Mechanism Fact Sheet https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/fact_sheet_-_air_freight_assistance.pdf.

COVID-19: First Signs of Impact in Port of Melbourne Container Traffic

One sign of the adverse impact on the Australian economy of COVID-19 is the fall in container traffic through the Port of Melbourne.

The following shows the decline in container volumes through the Port of Melbourne in the month ending 29 February 2020 compared to the month ending 28 February 2019 associated with all vessels departing the port during the month:

Indicator (TEU)	February 2019	February 2020	Difference (%)
Full overseas imports	97426	88163	-9.5
Full overseas exports	55101	52292	-5.1
Bass Strait imports	8424	5427	-35.6
Bass Strait exports	10436	7634	-26.8
Full mainland coastal exports	810	272	-66.4
Full mainland coastal imports	5106	4637	-9.2
Total full containers	177303	158425	-10.6
Total empty containers	60183	48551	-19.3
Total containers	237486	206976	-12.8
Total containers (excl Bass Strait direct)	214373	190614	-11.1

Of note is the 9.5 per cent decline in overseas imports.

While this is likely to be due to a range of factors, including general economic conditions, it is also likely that a slowing Chinese economy in January and flow-on effects into their disrupted supply chains will have an adverse effect on import volumes.

These flow on effects can be expected to disrupt supply chains in Australia through importers, distributors, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and other supply chain participants.

It is also important to remember there were 29 days in February in 2020, compared to 28 days last year, thus adding almost 4 per cent to vessel departure times during February.

Trade statistics for Port Botany are not yet available.

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