

ACT Government – Lockdown Guidance for the ACT Construction Sector

This morning, the ACT Government released an [updated Lockdown Guidance for the ACT Construction Sector](#).

The key changes are as follows.

Keep-Safe Activities

Clarification has been provided that ‘keep-safe’ activities can continue during lockdown, including the following permitted keep-safe activities:

- Works to ensure emergency access to property is possible
- Concrete stressing and testing works following concrete poured prior to the lockdown
- Crane (mobile and tower) inspections, including re-accreditation inspections

Offsite fabrication and manufacturing

The following fabrication and manufacturing activities are permitted:

- Manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting defence or security industries is deemed to be essential;
- Forestry industry and timber fabricators; and
- Manufacturing, fabrication, assembly of goods and materials and equipment supply activities necessary to enable the very limited number of projects determined to be essential. Permitted plants will be informed on a case-by-case basis by ACT Government officials

Permitted Construction Projects

In addition to urgent or essential works which are necessary for emergency or essential services, the following construction projects may continue during lockdown:

- A very limited number of ACT Government projects and associated activities the ACT Government has determined to be essential, or which relate to the ACT Government’s COVID-19 response.
- A very limited number of Commonwealth Government projects which are determined to be essential by the relevant Head of the responsible Government agency. Any such projects should be notified to the ACT Government (through Major Projects Canberra) prior to re-commencement.
- ACT residents can travel to a construction site in the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council area, provided that a

project has been specifically declared essential for the purposes of the ACT Direction in writing by either the Head of the relevant NSW Government Agency, the CEO of Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council or the ACT Government.

Important information about cross-border movement of construction workers is now included in the Construction Guidance note.

Union Right of Access

For those projects allowed to continue during lockdown union right of access is permitted to the extent unions have a statutory right of access to a construction site. This is allowed provided that union officials otherwise act in accordance with the Direction in force and the site's Covid-safe plan.

MBA Advocating to Reopen the Construction Industry

The acceptance by the ACT Government that certain construction projects and support services can continue or restart during lockdown, is evidence that the construction industry can safely reopen during lockdown with appropriate safety protocols in place. The MBA has worked constructively with the ACT Government and other industry stakeholders to develop these protocols over the past week.

Our advocacy is firmly aimed at getting our industry reopened in a safe way.

Importantly, we want to see all sectors of our industry reopened fairly and equitably.

Give Us Your Feedback

To help us in our advocacy efforts, we want to hear from you about the impacts of a protracted lockdown. Please help by [responding to this short survey](#). The results of this survey will be used to support our efforts to safely reopen the construction industry.

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