



## Information for the ACT Construction Sector

### ACT Government – Lockdown (Pause and Assess) Guidance for the ACT Construction Sector

12 August 2021

The ACT Chief Health Officer has issued *Public Health (Lockdown Restrictions) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 1)* (the '**Direction**') which comes into effect at 5pm on Thursday 12 August 2021. The Direction places the ACT into a seven day 'lock-down.'

This document is designed to provide further guidance to the ACT building and construction sector on the effect of the Direction.

#### **Background**

Under the Direction, only essential business, activities or undertakings are permitted.

Essential services include:

- Urgent repair and maintenance services, including for example plumbing, electrical and heating repair.

Essential workers include:

- A person who is critical to, and involved in, the ACT's COVID-19 response.
- Any person who provides or works in essential infrastructure and essential services required to maintain or protect the safety, health or welfare of the community or a section of the community (whether provided by a public or private undertaking), includes construction, maintenance and repair of such infrastructure.
- Any person who provides or works in urgent repair and maintenance services, including plumbing, electrical and heating repair.

## Guidance for the ACT Construction Sector

### Construction Projects

1. Construction projects are expected to stop during the seven day 'lock-down.'
  - a. A very limited number of ACT Government projects relating to the ACT Government's COVID-19 response may continue, subject to restrictions.
  - b. There may be a very limited number of other works which may be necessary for emergency services.
2. Construction sites must be made safe and secure during the lock-down. In this respect:
  - a. It is acknowledged that 'make-safe' activities may need to continue over the next 24 hours. Only works necessary to shut down and make safe a site should occur in this period. This may include, for example:
    - i. Works to ensure emergency access to property is possible. For example, completing a driveway to enable emergency access to a private residence; or
    - ii. Concrete stressing works following concrete poured immediately prior to the lock-down, if failure to do so will cause other safety and structural integrity issues.
  - b. In making a site safe, attention should be made to:
    - i. Ensuring site fencing is appropriate and secure;
    - ii. Ensuring materials cannot blow off the site or otherwise be improperly accessed;
    - iii. Ensuring works or materials that need to be safely propped are done so;
    - iv. Ensuring 'fall from height' and trenching risks are appropriately made secure;
    - v. Ensuring any other site-specific hazards are addressed;
    - vi. Ensuring the risk of environmental spills are addressed;
    - vii. Covering, protecting or moving materials which, if exposed to the elements, would be unsafe;
    - viii. Ensure regulatory signage is installed and visible. This should include contact details for the site; and
    - ix. Ensuring all other actions normally undertaken to secure a site during a shutdown (such as during the Christmas shutdown) are undertaken.
3. It is acknowledged that minimal site attendance will be required during the lock-down to ensure the closed site remains safe and secure.

## Freight and deliveries

4. Although transport, freight and logistics are essential services, deliveries should **not** occur at construction sites which are otherwise shut down.

## Offsite fabrication and manufacturing

5. Offsite fabrication and manufacturing activities are not permitted, with one exception. Only manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting defence or security industries is deemed to be essential.

## Cross-border movement of construction workers

6. All of NSW is now deemed a COVID-affected area.
7. **For NSW residents who work on ACT construction projects** - If you live in one of the following postcode areas, you can only enter the ACT for essential work (or healthcare reasons) *as defined by the ACT Government*:

Postcodes	Included cities, townships and areas
2581	Gunning, Collector
2582	Murrumbateman, Yass
2584	Binalong
2611	Uriarra
2618	Walleroo, areas along the ACT's north-western edge
2619	Jerrabomberra
2620	Queanbeyan, Googong, Karabar, Sutton, Gundaroo
2621	Bungendore
2623	Captains Flat
2626	Bredbo and Michelago

8. All other NSW residents are not permitted to enter the ACT without an exemption. Exemptions are generally not being granted for construction activities.

9. **For ACT residents who work on NSW construction projects** - Generally, ACT residents who work on NSW construction, repair or maintenance projects are required to undertake 14 days quarantine upon return to the ACT. The only exception to this quarantine requirement is where:
- a. The ACT resident is working on a construction site within one of the postcode areas listed above; AND
  - b. Where the NSW construction, repair or maintenance activities are for essential infrastructure and essential services required to maintain or protect the safety, health or welfare of the community or a section of the community (whether provided by a public or private undertaking).

*If a construction activity is permitted in NSW, this does not by itself mean it is an essential construction activity for which ACT residents are allowed to travel. It is the ACT Government assessment of "essential" which applies, even if a project is in NSW.*

**End.**