



Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Public Transport
Minister for Ports and Freight

1 Spring Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 8392 8020
DX 210292

Mr Paul Zalai
Director
Australian Peak Shippers Association/Freight Trade Alliance
Unit 612/566 St Kilda Road
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

Dear Mr Zalai

As you are aware, this week the National Cabinet and the Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, announced that Victoria would move to Stage 1 and 2 restrictions on certain non-essential venues and activities to combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Stage 1 restrictions took effect from midday on 23 March and Stage 2 restrictions have taken effect from midday today. The detail of those restrictions can be found at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>.

We would like to assure you that freight and logistics services will continue to operate under these restrictions. This includes the complete supply chain across ports, roads, rail, maritime, stevedoring, intermodal, transfer facilities, distribution, warehousing, freight yards, depots and systems. Keeping goods moving during the COVID-19 outbreak will ensure essential services can continue to operate.

However, it is government's expectation that those services will be provided in compliance with all relevant government directions, regulations and public health guidance on COVID-19, including recommended work practices to keep employees safe.

We are very mindful of the pressures facing the sector, and the need for us to work together to safely maintain operations across Victorian supply chains.

We understand that you have raised some important questions regarding the operation of your services within the context of the Stage 1 and 2 restrictions. Freight Victoria will facilitate information and responses via the centralised process the Victorian Government has established.

This process involves Freight Victoria working across government including with the Victorian Chief Health Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to ensure your organisations have access to the information and support you need to ensure the health and safety of your workers.

We are working closely with our Victorian cabinet colleagues, interstate counterparts and, via Freight Victoria, with the freight and logistics sector to consider how we can maintain safe and robust operations both now and into the future.

We are also continuing to work with the Commonwealth on national matters such as freight and logistics, and are committed to keeping you informed of these developments, through Freight Victoria. I would also encourage you to engage with the maritime and transport unions regarding matters involving workforce and safe practices.

I would like to thank you and members of the sector who have given their time to assist with the response to COVID-19.

If you would like to discuss this further please contact Mr Praveen Reddy, Executive Director, Freight Victoria via email: praveen.reddy@transport.vic.gov.au or telephone: (03) 9382 6196.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Ports and Freight

26/03/2020



Jaala Pulford MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

26/03/2020