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Subject: BULLETIN 32/2020: SUPPORTING LOCAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY



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SUPPORTING LOCAL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

As we face the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Victorian Government is actively looking for new ways to support jobs and limit the impact on our economy.

As such, we're encouraging local councils to consider extending operating hours on construction worksites in their municipality during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Construction companies are allocating fewer on-site workers, to ensure physical distancing measures are followed on their worksites.

By extending operating hours on worksites, construction companies can operate for longer while ensuring workers follow appropriate physical distancing measures.

Recently, the City of Melbourne introduced a rapid approval process to enable extended operating hours for construction and worksites that support the construction industry. The parameters of the approval sit within the City of Melbourne's local laws and enable a prompt process for consideration and, where warranted, approval of extended operating hours as per the below:

- **Weekdays:** 6am to 8pm (and up to 10pm for internal fit out works that are not externally audible, such as plastering, painting)
- **Saturdays:** 7am 5pm (and up to 10pm for internal fit out works that are not externally audible, such as plastering, painting.)
- **Sundays:** 10am until 4pm for limited activities related to crane works that are unable to be completed during standard hours.

All councils are encouraged to review the provisions in their local laws and planning permits that may inhibit timely completion and commencement of construction projects and implement a similar process to the City of Melbourne.

To monitor implementation of changes, questions will be added to the Local Government Victoria coronavirus (COVID-19) survey of councils.

The model that councils consider should include the consideration of temporarily adjusting truck delivery restrictions and waste removal for construction sites where they may currently apply.

As we manage the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19), it is vital that every tier of government is working together to tackle the pandemic.

I want to thank you for all the work you are doing in your communities to keep people safe and informed.

This bulletin was prepared in conjunction with the Planning and Environment and Climate Change groups of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Regards

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