

Information for Industry

A message from Duncan Edghill
Chief Projects Officer
Major Projects Canberra

25 June 2021

Dear construction sector stakeholders,

Due to the evolving COVID-19 situation in New South Wales, the ACT Government has updated travel directions for people travelling to the ACT from affected areas of NSW.

The ACT Government is strongly advising against any travel between Greater Sydney and the ACT at this time, and travel restrictions, including 'stay at home' requirements are currently in place.

Do not enter the ACT without an exemption

To provide communities with confidence that appropriate measures are in place to limit the potential spread of COVID-19, a strict exemption policy has been developed by the ACT Government.

All non-ACT residents who have been to areas of concern must not enter the ACT unless an exemption is obtained before arriving. This includes construction workers and other infrastructure sector participants.

Further detail on the areas involved and the restrictions that apply can be found at the ACT Government COVID-19 website - [covid19.act.gov.au/](https://www.act.gov.au/covid19)

This is a fast-moving situation and industry should keep itself up to date with any changes, including any additional Local Government Areas that are identified.

To reiterate, no construction worker coming from an identified Local Government Area can enter the ACT unless an exemption is provided.

Assessing exemptions

In assessing exemption requests in the construction and infrastructure sector, the ACT Government will consider on a case-by-case basis:

- Whether the project is significant (in terms of size or community benefit);
- Whether it is critical for the works to be undertaken now;
- Whether the work could be undertaken by people or companies who have not been in an area of concern;
- The risk profile of the work site and the project; and
- Whether adequate control measures can be put in place to appropriately manage risk.

Where an exemption is granted, the exempted person must comply with all conditions outlined in the exemption documentation. There will be conditions if exemptions are granted, including in relation to COVID-19 testing before entering the worksite and at other times.

The exemptions process will be rigorously applied, and a cautious approach will be taken in assessing exemption applications. To assist the ACT Government in the swift determination of applications, and to therefore assist industry in managing their projects, the ACT Government would be grateful if applications are submitted only when there is a strong case against the exemption criteria. Exemptions are expected to be the exception and should not normally be expected to be granted.

When submitting applications, we would ask that you pay attention to the requested information and supporting documentation requirements. This will avoid delays in the assessment process. This includes:

- Name, description, and address of project;
- Nature of the services the applicant is performing;
- Confirmation as to whether it is an ACT Government or private project;
- Details of head contractor **on site** including contact phone number; and
- A reference from the head contractor setting out the critical need for the services to be provided by the applicant and acknowledgement that they will be on site from an area of concern.

We understand the impacts this may have and appreciate your concerns.

Our aim is to work in partnership with industry to manage risks, protect communities, and maintain a healthy and viable construction sector.

Regards,

Duncan Edghill

Chief Projects Officer

Major Projects Canberra



MPC acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.