

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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Monday 10 August 2020

Roundtable on community impact of NSW-Victoria border closure

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock and the Office of Local Government (OLG) today held a virtual roundtable with mayors and general managers from 13 councils on or near the NSW-Victoria border.



The online roundtable heard first-hand from local councils about the issues and challenges facing border communities from the current Public Health Orders and temporary closure of the NSW-Victoria border.

Councils were also given updates from senior representatives of the NSW Police Force and NSW Health as well as Cross-Border Commissioner James McTavish.

The Minister will escalate these concerns to senior levels of Government to help develop solutions where possible.

The Office of Local Government will continue to work with border councils and Commissioner McTavish to address community impacts.



Updates to border permits

A range of important changes to border permits have been implemented that further restrict entry to NSW and to Victoria by NSW residents.

The changes include:

- The list of critical services not available in NSW that provide an exemption for residents outside border communities
- Persons entering on compassionate grounds, and
- NSW residents who attend boarding schools outside NSW.

For more information and the full list of updated criteria please visit [NSW-Victoria border restrictions](#) and [Your guide to border restrictions](#), or contact Service NSW on 13 77 88.

To find out which towns fall within the declared border zone, [click here](#).

Latest Health advice on wearing face masks

Councils are reminded of the latest advice issued by NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant regarding the wearing of masks.

Dr Chant recommends wearing a mask in the following circumstances:

- If it is hard to maintain 1.5 metres of physical distance from others in areas where there has been community transmission
- When in high-risk indoor areas such as public transport, supermarkets, shops, churches and other places of worship
- When caring for or serving vulnerable people, and
- If working in a cafe, restaurant, pub, club or other high-risk indoor areas.

While wearing a mask in any of these settings is not currently mandatory, it is highly recommended.



For more information and advice on the wearing of masks [click here](#).

Contact tracing for NSW libraries

Under the current Public Health Order and [library COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) it is voluntary for people to leave their contact details when visiting a library.



NSW Health has now advised that it is strongly recommended that people leave contact details with time and date of entry when visiting a library, ahead of expected changes to the Public Health Order in the coming days.

For the latest council advice on Public Health Orders and other information and resources prepared by OLG [click here](#).



Council webinar with Minister Anderson

The Office of Local Government is hosting a council webinar with Minister for Better Regulation and Innovation Kevin Anderson (pictured) tomorrow (Tuesday August 11) from 9.30-10.30am.

Minister Anderson will provide councils with an update on NSW Government reforms during the COVID-19 pandemic followed by a question and answer session.

Invitations have been distributed to mayors and general managers with information on how they can register for the webinar.

Councils are also encouraged to submit questions they would like answered during the webinar when they register.

A recording of the webinar will be available on [the Office of Local Government](#)

[website](#).

The webinars are part of a series coordinated by Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock with relevant Ministers and public officials across Government to keep mayors and general managers up to date on the latest COVID-19 information and answer their questions.



Information and resources

[Guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces](#)
Safety plans for a range of businesses and organisations can be found [here](#), and those in the sport and recreation sector [here](#).

[Local government toolkit](#)

The Department of Customer Service has prepared a toolkit for councils regarding the [Victoria-NSW border closure](#).

[Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

Councils can still apply for the Job Retention Allowance payment of \$1,500 per fortnight, per eligible employee. Find out how in this [circular](#).

[Detailed OLG guidance to councils](#)

Councils can access detailed guidance on:

- [Local government legislative amendments](#)
- [Local government economic stimulus package](#)
- [The latest Public Health Order](#)

[Quicklinks](#)

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#), [Commonwealth Government](#), [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), and [NSW Office of Local Government](#) websites.

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