



Dear proprietor and industry partners

Important Update: Pause commencement of Stage 3 restrictions

As foreshadowed by the ACT Government on Wednesday 8 July 2020, planned Stage 3 restrictions **will not take effect** this Friday, 10 July.

The ACT Chief Health Officer has advised that the ACT should remain in Step 2.2 of restrictions, following a Public Health Risk Assessment (Check Point) considered on 9 July 2020. The situation in Victoria remains very concerning, and there is uncertainty of the full impact of the situation on the ACT. A further check point will be considered in two weeks' time.

We understand this will be frustrating for local businesses, as many have been planning for this change to come into effect from Friday. This situation is disappointing for all. However, while the Government wants to support the recovery of our economy, the public health of the community remains the priority.

What does the delay mean for businesses/industries that had planned to re-open on Friday or change their arrangements?

Businesses must continue to comply with the requirements of Step 2.2 of Canberra's Recovery Plan, as outlined in the existing Public Health Direction: [Public Health \(Restricted Activities - Gatherings, Business or Undertakings\) Emergency Direction 2020 \(No 3\)](#).

Should business/industry keep preparing for a future change in restrictions?

Yes. Businesses can continue to think through what they need to do in advance of Stage 3, however cannot move to this Stage or arrangements, until it takes effect.

Where can I go for more information?

The ACT Government's [COVID-19 website](#) has information for business and industry including a copy of the [Public Health Direction](#) and guidance for business. A [Business Resource Kit](#) is also available to support you.

The Access Canberra Business Liaison Team is also available to answer questions or provide advice. The team can be reached on (02) 6205 0900.

Compliance with the Public Health Direction

Proactive and random checks by compliance officers from Access Canberra, the Health Protection Service as well as ACT Policing will continue to support compliance and community safety against the current Public Health Direction.

Non-compliance with the public health directions can result in regulatory action and serious penalties apply.

A particular focus of compliance activities at the moment is ensuring business and industry have a *COVID Safety Plan*, which became a requirement on 6 June 2020.

Failure to have a *COVID Safety Plan* may result in regulatory action for non-compliance. Further information on *COVID Safety Plans* [can be found here](#). We also strongly encourage you to call the Business Liaison Team if you are struggling to complete one, so we can provide additional guidance.

Your ongoing cooperation and proactive compliance with the Public Health Direction is greatly appreciated as we work to support our community's safety.

Yours sincerely



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