



## UDIA Victoria **MEMBER ALERT**


### **Breaking news: Building, construction and development sites remain open**

Our calls for the building, construction and development industry to remain operational for as long as it's safe have been heard, with worksites to be excluded from Victoria's shutdown of non-essential activity.

Premier Dan Andrews has this morning confirmed that Victoria is implementing a shutdown of all non-essential activity at 12pm today to contain the COVID-19 coronavirus. **At this stage, the shutdown does not include building, construction and development sites as they remain an essential service for the time being.**

#### **Key points for the urban development industry**

- Building, construction and development sites can remain open, but the recommended social distancing health and safety rules must be adhered to
- The Victorian Premier has advised that if you can work from home, you should
- If not possible to work from home, utilise flexible working arrangements including off-peak travel
- Victoria Police has established a coronavirus enforcement squad of 500 officers to ensure containment measures put in place to combat coronavirus are followed
- UDIA Victoria is advising State Government that it must ensure local government, state government agencies and authorities remain operational and productive during this time so that a pipeline of projects and development activity can be approved, and industry can kick into top gear as soon as it is safe to do so
- UDIA Victoria Action Plan focussed on the industry's economic survival will be submitted to State Government this week



Following a meeting of National Cabinet last night, the Prime Minister and state and territory leaders agreed to implement Stage 1 of a shutdown of non-essential activity across the country from midday today which is aimed at slowing the spread of coronavirus. Victoria is taking additional measures such as bringing forward school holidays, with today being the last day of the first Victorian school term of the year. Childcare centres remain open for now.

UDIA Victoria CEO Danni Hunter is in daily communication with the Premier, Treasurer and Planning Minister themselves, as well as their senior advisors and other government leaders, and continues to advocate for the building, construction and development industry to remain operational for as long as it's safe.

It is a matter of economic survival that the building, construction and development sector is supported through this difficult period. UDIA Victoria will be releasing its Action Plan for the Victorian Government this week.

On behalf of UDIA Victoria, chief executive Danni Hunter has stated that the health, wellbeing and safety of people in the industry is the primary concern of UDIA.

However, she has reiterated that businesses, state and local government agencies and authorities should keep operating so that a pipeline of projects and development activity can be approved, and works can continue or recommence when it is safe to do so.

Looking ahead, the building, construction and development industry will resuscitate our economy if we give it the ability to do so. As we talk with Government leaders, we're highlighting how important the industry to the state economy. The sector employs hundreds of thousands of people and contributes 45% of Victoria's taxation revenue base.

These facts are central in our conversations as we advocate for the Victorian Government to act swiftly and decisively about cutting red tape and burdensome regulation now. If the Government does, industry will be well-placed to kick into top gear and bring the Victorian economy back to life as quickly as possible once the COVID-19 threat has reduced.

