

National restrictions and border closures – what does it mean for dairy?

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The aim of this information is to provide guidance on the rulings of national restrictions and border closures and provides a standard certification template that can be completed as proof you are an essential service.

The certification template has been prepared by ADF, ADPF and Dairy Australia and will be continually updated to reflect the latest information and government advice.

For any queries or questions please email c19@dairyaustralia.com.au or call 1800 004 377.

Closure of state borders

Many states have announced border closures – see below for details. Interstate arrivals after the start of these restrictions will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

Dairy Australia continues to monitor statements from state and federal governments to ensure dairy is considered exempt along with all businesses involved in food production.

In the meantime, it is clear from public statements across the country that food production and distribution can continue without interruption as an 'essential service' and we encourage all business supplying or servicing farms and dairy processors, or distributing food or food inputs to continue to operate as normal with appropriate hygiene controls.

Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack released information via social media late on Tuesday 24 March stating:

As our way of life is fundamentally disrupted, I want to reassure Australians that freight movements around the country will continue throughout the #COVID19AU pandemic. Food supplies, medicine & other goods will reach their destination, because freight is an essential service.

A table below provides further details on public statements about each state and territory.

Proving yourself as an essential service

Public commentary from state and territory leaders have explained that should commercial vehicles crossing borders be stopped, the consignment notice for goods in transit will be used to certify they relate to the provision of essential agricultural or food services.

In the event this paperwork is not available to you or you want to offer further assurance to staff or contractors, we have developed an alternative certification template. It identifies the holder as part of the functioning of the critical Australian agriculture, food production or food

distribution system which is considered essential at this time by all state and territory and federal governments and therefore exempt from restrictions.

Please adapt and brand this template for your own use. Print a copy, sign the document where indicated, and ask drivers and employees to keep these on-hand to provide to authorities should they stop vehicles or employees from carrying out their duties.

Download a copy from the Dairy Australia website: dairyaustralia.com.au/c19

If you encounter difficulties continuing to conduct business as a result of national restrictions or border closures, please email c19@dairyaustralia.com.au or call **1800 004 377**

Stage 1 social distancing restrictions

The Prime Minister and leader of all states and territories met on Sunday 22 March and agreed to implement new 'Stage 1' restrictions on social gatherings, to be reviewed monthly but with an expectation that these measures are likely to remain in place for at least 6 months. The following facilities were not permitted to trade from midday local time Monday 23 March 2020:

- Pubs, registered and licenced clubs (excluding bottle shops attached to these venues), hotels (excluding accommodation)
- Gyms and indoor sporting venues
- Cinemas, entertainment venues, casinos, and night clubs
- Restaurants and cafes will be restricted to takeaway and/or home delivery
- Religious gatherings, places of worship or funerals (in enclosed spaces and other than very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies).

These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with the above venues. These measures are in addition to **existing restrictions on social gatherings announced 13 March**.

These restrictions have been brought into effect by states and territories themselves. Premiers and Chief Ministers will consider further Stage 2 restrictions if social distancing measures are not adhered to.

Schools

Leaders also committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

State Premiers and Chief Ministers agreed that schools will remain open through to the end of the current school terms to support students whose parents choose to send their children to school. Victoria's school break will commence on Tuesday 24 March 2020.

All Leaders have committed to re-open schools at the end of the school break, subject to the advice of the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee.

	Border closure (local time)	Exemptions/details
Tas	Saturday 21 March, 12.01am	<p>Essential travellers are exempt from having to self-isolate, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport, freight and logistics; • Specialist skills critical to maintaining key industries or businesses; • Any specialists required for industry or business continuity and maintenance of competitive operations where the appropriate skills are not available in Tasmania, where the service is time-critical and where the provision of the service requires that the person be physically present in Tasmania; and • Any person who, in the carriage of his or her duties, is responsible, while in Tasmania, for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to Tasmania. <p>All travellers must complete and submit an arrivals form. This form and further details available from Biosecurity Tasmania.</p>
Vic	No closure announced yet	<p>“The government had assured him the agricultural sector would be able to continue operating, albeit while taking the proper precautions.” - Victorian Farmers Federation president David Jochinke</p> <p>“We will ensure our farms and agribusinesses keep operating to keep the supermarkets stocked and food on tables. Food and beverage production is at the heart of ensuring we can get through this crisis together - the Victorian Government knows how important you are to us all.” – Jaclyn Symes, Victorian Agriculture Minister</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See Stock & Land</p>
NSW	No closure announced yet	<p>“I want to personally assure you that primary industry production and related businesses and the entire food supply chain are NOT impacted by these new restrictions. These businesses can continue to operate on a ‘business as usual’ basis, though should attempt to practice appropriate social distancing measures.” – Adam Marshall, Minister for Agriculture (direct correspondence with Dairy Australia)</p>
ACT	Sunday 22 March	<p>“The only travel outside of the Canberra region should be for work, for compassionate reasons, and to ensure the essential supplies and services that our region needs. If you travel to the ACT for work or for your essential services, you are considered to be part of the Canberra region. We are urging Canberrans to take a common sense approach to this instruction. And carefully consider whether you need to travel outside of our region for any of these reasons,” Barr said.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ACT Government</p>

QLD	Wednesday 25 March, midnight	<p>"Unless you're returning home to Queensland or coming to Queensland for an essential purpose like work or a medical appointment, or freight issues, then the border is closed to you," Premier Palaszczuk</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See ABC News</p> <p>"People exempted from the restrictions will include those delivering freight, emergency workers, those travelling to and from work or needing to attend court, and seeking medical treatment.</p> <p>"Deputy Commissioner Gollschewski said he hoped to have a permit system set-up that would involve people applying online for exemptions to cross the border. It could ultimately involve a sticker placed on a car or truck."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See The Australian</p>
SA	Tuesday 24 March, 4.00pm	<p>A 'Cross Border Travel Direction' has been issued today by the SA State Coordinator. The 'Direction' applies to all people who arrive in South Australia other than 'Essential Travellers'. Schedule 1 to the 'Direction' provides the meaning of 'Essential Traveller'.</p> <p>In terms of Schedule 1, the following activities look to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk collection, dairy transport and movement of farm and manufacturing inputs (including stock feed, chemicals, packaging) comes within clause 4 'Transport and freight services', where it states 'providing transport or freight services into, within and out of South Australia' • Employees and contractors is addressed covered under clause 5 'Skills critical to maintaining key industries or businesses', specifically in sub-clauses (a) and (c) <p>Clearly the traveller will need to be able to demonstrate they meet the criteria via relevant documentation – this could be via a letter from the employer or contractor detailing the purpose of travel and key contacts, a drivers manifest, or a work order, etc) as SAPOL is patrolling the border entry points and there are significant penalties and the potential to be turned around.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See SA Government</p>
WA	Tues 24 March, 1:30pm	<p>"Exemptions will apply to essential services and workers, including health and emergency services, defence and policing, mining industry workforces, flight crews and freight of essential goods, via ports and trucks – with guidelines to monitor and manage the situation." - Premier Mark McGowan</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See Canberra Times online</p> <p>Find more details about border controls from WA Government online here.</p>
NT	Tuesday 24 March, 4.00pm	<p>"This will not impact the delivery of essential goods and services. Food and freight will continue. Our supermarkets and stores will be stocked," he added." - Chief Minister Michael Gunner</p> <p style="text-align: right;">See ABC News online</p> <p>Find more details about border controls from NT Government online here.</p>