

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Freight Industry Urges Continued Dialogue on Stage 4 Restrictions**

The [Australian Logistics Council \(ALC\)](#) has urged the Victorian Government to continue actively engaging industry over the details of its Stage 4 COVID-19 restrictions to minimise potential supply chain disruptions.

“We welcome today’s announcement by Premier Daniel Andrews that warehouses and distribution centres for supermarkets and medical and personal protective equipment (PPE) will have longer to implement their requirements,” said ALC CEO Kirk Coningham.

“The extension of that deadline to midnight on Sunday 9 August and the introduction of some other flexibilities will help towards minimising disruption.”

“Nonetheless, this remains a very challenging situation – and we strongly urge the Victorian Government to continue working closely with industry to make certain reliable access to everyday items beyond the supermarket and medical supply sectors can be maintained.”

“It is important to remember there are national distribution centres located in Victoria that service the requirements of retail outlets across Australia. These centres handle product lines that include clothing, appliances and other everyday retail items. The industry remains deeply concerned that the requirement to reduce staffing levels in these Victorian-based warehouses and national distribution centres to 67 per cent of daily total capacity will have a flow on impact beyond Victoria.”

“While in-store retail activity in Victoria has been severely curtailed under Stage 4 restrictions, that is not the case nationally. It is important to remember that supply chains do not end at state borders.”

“We are particularly concerned that the proposed workforce reduction requirements for the medical and PPE sector risks the supply of critical health care items to the community. In a time of major health crisis, we urge the Victorian Government to avoid risking further disruptions to Australia’s health system.”

“All parts of the freight and logistics industry are acutely aware of the need to protect public health and have worked proactively over the last five months to adhere to COVID-19 safe practices, in warehouses and in vehicles.”

“But we continue to urge the Victorian Government to work with industry and adjust restrictions where necessary to ensure national distribution centres can maintain the reliable supply of goods for communities, in Victoria and across the nation.”

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