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Letter to the partners in Victoria's Big Build

The Victoria Government is committed to working in partnership with employers and unions to continue the delivery of Victoria's \$70 billion Big Build program of work.

Coronavirus is creating unprecedented health and economic challenges for Victoria and communities across the globe. In these uncertain times, I would like to reassure you that the Victorian Government will work in partnership with industry to meet to these challenges.

We recognise that the construction and engineering sector is both a major employer of Victorians, and an integral part of our efforts to transform Victorian's transport system for the future.

Construction is continuing – within the new guidelines

You will be aware that the Victorian Government has progressively introduced strong measures to slow the spread of coronavirus and minimise its impact on our community and health care system.

We will continue to rely on the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer and take all necessary steps to protect the health and safety of our community.

As advised by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), current restrictions do not prevent construction sites and activities from operating.

DHHS has released a guidance note for industry which I encourage you to review and to implement appropriate measures on your construction sites. The guidance note can be accessed here:

https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202003/best_practice_for_managing_construction_sites_COVID-19_final.pdf

Further guidance has also been developed by industry associations and unions, with input from WorkSafe and DHHS

<https://www.mbav.com.au/sites/default/files/COVID-19%20B%20and%20C%2025%20March%202020%20v7%20Final%20save%20for%20contacts.pdf>



While the construction sector is exempt from current restrictions, this can only continue as long as we work together to implement safe work practices at all our sites to reduce the risk of coronavirus.

Building big together

We are aware of the pressures facing the construction and engineering sector, and the need for us to work together to secure the future of our industry.

The Victorian Government is delivering a \$1.7 billion Economic Survival Package, which includes paying all outstanding invoices within five business days, providing \$500 million to establish a Business Support Fund for the hardest hit sectors and a \$500 million Working for Victoria fund to help workers who have lost their job find new opportunities.

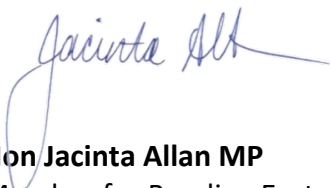
The Victorian Government and its agencies will also work collaboratively with industry to identify and address issues that might arise as a result of coronavirus.

I encourage contractors and consulting firms to reach out to their client agencies and keep them informed of any unforeseen issues that might arise. The Major Transport Infrastructure Authority is in daily dialogue with contractors and unions and we will continue to facilitate forums that focus on how we can secure the future of this vital sector for Victoria.

In closing, this situation is evolving daily, and it is important that we maintain strong lines of communication and receive early oversight of any risks to program delivery that we can work through together.

We would like to thank all of the industry groups, contractors and unions involved in delivering the Big Build for working so collaboratively through this challenging period.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Member for Bendigo East
Minister for Transport Infrastructure
Minister for Priority Precincts



Corey Hannett
Director-General
Major Transport Infrastructure Authority

Dated: 09 / 04 / 2020

