



STATEMENT ON SA CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SHUTDOWN

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The Government of South Australia needs to clarify the rationale and details behind its seven-day shutdown of the construction sector, according to infrastructure think tank [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](https://www.infrastructure.org.au).

“While industry understands the SA Government is acting out of extreme caution in implementing these new COVID-19 restrictions, the move to shutdown construction en masse is concerning and needs to be explained,” said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Chief Executive Adrian Dwyer.

“It is critical for public confidence that the Government explain the rationale behind this decision and provide further clarity to industry on the scope and detail behind these new restrictions.

“With low case numbers in South Australia, a stronger case needs to be made as to why millions of dollars will be withdrawn from the economy.

“Shutdown should be the last option in the government’s arsenal not the first. Government’s shouldn’t be reaching for the on/off switch, when the volume knob will do.

“Major infrastructure delivery is a heavily controlled, safety-first environment with strict COVID protocols.

“The sector has repeatedly shown it can deliver safely in a pandemic world, with movement in and around large-scale civil construction sites heavily curtailed and strong systems in place to ensure the separation of work crews, sub-contractors, and suppliers.

“The SA Government has to be cognisant of the negative effect this decision will have on contracted delivery schedules and all the downstream sub-contractors and suppliers working on major infrastructure projects.

“The SA Government is putting more than \$300 million into the infrastructure construction sector each month.

“Pulling that investment out, even for just one-week, is going to have a significant impact on the construction sector workforce and the SA economy.

“Construction is not an abstract exercise, its real people building real things, it’s everyday stimulus that keeps the economy working,” said Mr Dwyer.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia is the nation’s infrastructure think tank, providing independent policy research focused on excellence in social and economic infrastructure.

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