



STATEMENT ON VICTORIAN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SHUTDOWN

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While the pause on construction in Victoria is disappointing, the industry will work with Government to ensure construction can safely and swiftly resume as soon as conditions allow, said Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive, Adrian Dwyer.

“The infrastructure sector respects and understands the Victorian Government’s decision to shut construction down for two-weeks to minimise transmission risk and improve compliance.

“The industry has been highly responsive to the evolving health advice and has shown through previous lockdowns that it is capable of adapting to reduce transmission of this highly-infectious Delta strain.

“Pre-lockdown, the Victorian Government was averaging a burn-rate of \$1.9 billion a month on infrastructure construction spend.

“Pausing that investment, even for two-week period, is going to have a significant impact on the construction sector workforce and the Victorian economy.

“Construction is not an abstract exercise, it’s everyday stimulus that keeps the economy moving – and that means we must work collectively to re-open as swiftly and as safely as possible.

“The vast majority of construction sector workers are willing to comply with the government’s measures to reduce transmission on construction sites and will just want to get back on the tools.

“It is critical through this period that the Government maintains the sector’s solvency, stability, and confidence and continues to keep an open line of dialogue with industry as it considers ways to reopen construction.

“In the first instance, the Victorian Government needs to ensure adequate relief is available to its delivery partners to absorb the financial shock of this decision and ensure we don’t see insolvencies emerge down the supply chain.

“The Victorian Government also needs to provide a clear set of expectations to industry on what is required to improve compliance to ensure we can rapidly reopen sites at full capacity,” 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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