

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Community Update

MELINA BATH MP Member for Eastern Victoria Region

Community Update 17 September 2020

Dear constituent

As you have no doubt heard, regional Victoria today (Thursday 17 September) has moved to step three on the State Government's "roadmap" for the easing of COVID restrictions.

This includes all of my regional constituents across the Gippsland region.

Sadly, the changes don't apply to my constituents living in the Cardinia Shire, Yarra Valley and Mornington Peninsula who are classified metropolitan and remain on strict Stage 4 restrictions.

The change for Gippslanders will significantly reduce the restrictions on many lives. Most notably it removes the restriction on when and why you can leave your home.

My newsletter focusses on reporting the rules that have been created by the State Government under its roadmap.

REGIONAL VICTORIA CHANGES

STEP 3 – THE INTRODUCTION OF SOME MORE FREEDOM

The major rule changes for regional Victoria is there is no longer a restriction on leaving home. Some specific changes:

- **Public gatherings** allowed with up to 10 people outdoors
- **Visitors** allowed at home from one other household (up to 5 visitors) – a household "bubble". There is no formal requirement to nominate that household, but they must be exclusive – i.e. the household you "bubble" with can't "bubble" with a different household
- **Schools** will return to onsite learning in Term 4 with safety measures – most primary schools from week commencing October 5, secondary schools from October 12. Check with your school as some recommencement will be staggered
- **Hospitality** open for up to 10 seated patrons per indoor space, (a maximum of two spaces), outdoor seated service for up to 50, subject to density requirements
- **All retail open**, hairdressing and beauty services where a face covering can be worn for the duration of service
- **Travel allowed** within regional Victoria for those who live in regional Victoria – You can travel through Melbourne to get to other regional destination in the state. Plan your trip, food, fuel etc and expect to be stopped at checkpoints. Carry ID and/or documentation.
- **Camping** is also allowed, including at caravan and camping parks, but groups limited to the same rules as for "bubbles".
- **National Parks** – if you are wanting to visit a National Park in your travels always [check the Parks Victoria website](#) for any limitations that may apply. Some may have density and bathroom restrictions.
- **Parks, playgrounds, outdoor gyms and skate parks** – open
- **Outdoor sport** can resume for children (under 18) and non-contact for adults. Gyms remain closed

Regional Victoria Restriction changes

Step 3 - effective from Thursday 17th September 2020

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The four reasons to leave your home NO LONGER APPLY

VISITORS TO HOME

Maximum of five visitors will be allowed in homes as long as they are from your nominated bubble household

EDUCATION

Schools to reopen for Term 4 under a staggered start. Please await advice and instructions from your child's school.

BEAUTY, PERSONAL CARE, TATTOOING

Allowed with a face covering

ACCOMMODATION VENUES

Open in regional Victoria, including caravan parks

TRAVEL

Allowable for regional Victorians holidaying travelling anywhere in regional Victoria.

No travel to Melbourne metro region.

WEDDINGS

Capacity of 10 people

FUNERALS

Capacity of 20 people

RELIGION

Outdoor religious gatherings increase to 10 people, plus one faith leader

COMMUNITY POOLS

Outdoor pools open with density limits, indoor closed

PLAYGROUNDS, OUTDOOR FITNESS & SKATE PARKS

Open

HOSPITALITY - pubs, cafés and restaurants

Outdoors - can serve patrons out doors with a cap of 50 seated patrons with a 1 person per 2 square metre density rule

Indoors - can open with a cap of 10 seated patrons per space - up to two spaces maximum with a 1 person per 4 square metre density rule

Tables must be 1.5 metres apart, cleaned after every customer and all details of patrons kept.

SPORT

Community sport for children can return - contact and non contact

Non-contact sport for adults resumes

Indoor gyms remain closed

CAMPING

Allowable on public land

Checks Parks Vic for any National Parks restrictions

HUNTING, FISHING, PROSPECTING, BUSH WALKING, HORSE RIDING

Allowable

FIREWOOD COLLECTION

Allowable - spring season opened 01/09/2020

REAL ESTATE

Auctions can recommence outdoors with a maximum of 10 people.

Private inspections by appointment only

Masks, social distancing and hand hygiene remain mandatory

All businesses will be required to have an enforceable COVIDsafe by 28 September 2020

☞ The full details on [step 3 is found here](#) for regional Victoria

☞ Frequently asked questions on [Step 3 is found here](#) for regional Victoria.

FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

Advice on the compulsory wearing of **masks/face coverings** has not changed and they are likely to remain for some time yet.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police have announced there will be a significantly enhanced enforcement operation to stop Melburnians - who remain on stage four restrictions - attempting to travel to regional areas.

This is to include beefing up checkpoints that will see all vehicles towing boats and caravans stopped.

A dedicated fine of \$4957 has been introduced for "*failure to comply with a requirement to remain in a restricted area*". This fine will be applied to all individuals caught doing the wrong thing, not just the driver of a vehicle, for example, but the passengers too.

If you have evidence of someone breaking the restrictions, you can call the Police Assistance Line on 131444.

SHOP LOCAL – GET GIPPSLAND’S ECONOMY GROWING

As restrictions ease, I am encouraging Gippslanders to come together, support jobs and help grow the economy by shopping and travelling locally.

Small businesses provide us with local jobs and in addition they regularly support our causes and clubs through generous donations, now it’s time to offer them a helping hand by way of our patronage.

These holidays, I am encouraging Gippslanders to play and enjoy the best of our own backyards – enjoy day trips, indulge in personal care, book a local holiday and experience local food and wine.

☞ [The industry restart guide for **hospitality** businesses can be downloaded here](#)

☞ [The industry restart guide for **accommodation** businesses can be downloaded here](#)

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SUPPORT

The State Government this week announced a further package of support for business, including hospitality businesses. The support includes:

A third round of the Business Support Fund, offering cash grants of \$10,000 to \$20,000 for small and medium businesses

- Cash grants of \$10,000 to \$30,000 for hospitality businesses through the Licenced Venue Fund. Liquor licence fees will be waived for 2021
- A full-year payroll tax deferral for businesses with a payroll up to \$10m.
- The waiver of various fees and charges, some commercial and industrial stamp duty rebates in regional areas, and support for alpine businesses given the cancelled snow season.
- \$87.5 million Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package to support hospitality businesses prepare for outdoor dining and “COVID Normal” reopening across Victoria
- A Sole Trader Support Fund providing grants of up to \$3000 but only for those sole traders who are tenants or licensees in a commercial premise.

☞ The [details of business support is available here](#).

NEXT STEP FOR REGIONAL VICTORIA

Under the government’s road map, the next change can only occur on November 23 or when there have been no cases of coronavirus across the whole state for 14 days – whichever is later.

☞ The [roadmap for regional Victoria can be found here](#).

NEXT STEP FOR METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

Under the state government’s roadmap the next change can only occur **after** 28 September and it reaches an average daily case rate between 30 to 50 cases over a 14 day period with public health advice regarding transmission source.

The State Government have said that this time period must pass and the number of cases must be low enough to move to the next step. Only then will a review of the public health restrictions be conducted.

☞ The [roadmap for metropolitan Melbourne can be found here](#).

Please review these web pages if you have further questions, but as always, email me or call the office if you can't find what you're looking for.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Melina Bath

Melina BATH MP

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A better deal

*for Eastern Victoria
Region*