

## WA COVID-19 Relaxation and Path Ahead

May 2020

On Sunday 10 May 2020, the West Australian (WA) Premier and Deputy Premier announced changes to COVID-19 restrictions focusing on getting West Australian's back to work and the West Australian economy re-started.

The Premier's media statement is available [here](#).

The four-phase plan was developed in conjunction with the National Cabinet framework and is based on the best health advice for Western Australia.

Phase 1 is already in place following the cautious relaxing of some restrictions from 27 April 2020, to allow families and friends to stay connected.

### Phase 2

Phase 2, commencing on 18 May, will focus on encouraging Western Australians to return to work, unless they are unwell or vulnerable, so the WA economy can further rebuild in a safe and measured way.

Under phase 2, the following will be permitted:

#### General Restrictions

- Indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 10 people (at home)
- Outdoor personal training without shared equipment
- Recreation activities in compliance with travel restrictions and the 10-person rule, such as private picnics in the park, fishing, boating, hiking and camping
- Open homes and display villages open, in compliance with 10-person rule, appropriate record keeping and hygiene practices.

#### Public Gatherings

- Indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 20 people
- Weddings and funerals up to 20 people inside or 30 outside.

#### Fitness and Recreation

- Non-contact community sports up to 20 people
- Outdoor or indoor fitness classes with minimal shared equipment, up to 20 people
- Public pools (1 indoor and 1 outdoor) permitted to open under strict rules and up to 20 patrons per pool

### Community Facilities

- Places of worship, community facilities and libraries permitted to reopen up to 20 patrons.

### Advice for business

- Businesses across Western Australia will need to prepare a COVID Safety Plan before they re-open, to protect staff and customers.
- *Information on the COVID Safety Plan can be accessed [here](#).*

### Schools

- From 18 May, all students will recommence classes across West Australia.
- Online classes will be available to students who are medically vulnerable.

### Travel

As part of Phase 2, regional travel restrictions will also change, bringing the number of current borders within Western Australia from 13 to only four. This will allow regional travel between:

- travel between the South-West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt, Perth and Peel regions
- travel between the Mid-West, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions (excluding Biosecurity zone)
- travel within the Goldfields-Esperance region (excluding the Biosecurity zone)
- travel permitted between the Kimberley local government areas (the Commonwealth's Biosecurity zone remains in place).

### Regional travel restrictions

Phase 2 regional travel restrictions are eased further, commencing Friday, May 29, except for regions that are bound by the Commonwealth's designated biosecurity determination and 274 remote Aboriginal communities.

Travel to remote and vulnerable communities remain prohibited to protect residents Commonwealth biosecurity areas, including Broome, set to be lifted on Friday, June 5.

### **Phase 3 and 4**

Phase 3 will be released around 4 weeks from May 18 and will be subject to health advice, but will focus on easing of restrictions around commercial and recreational activities.

Phase 3 may include:

- Further increase to non-work gathering limits
- Reopening playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment



- Reopening galleries, museums, zoos, theatres, cinemas and concert venues
- Resuming beauty therapy and personal care services
- Resuming community contact sport
- Restrictions further relaxed for gyms, health clubs and indoor sport centres
- Reopening auction houses and real estate auctions
- Possible further adjustments to regional boundaries.

Phase 4 will be future easing of restrictions in line with expert health advice.

### **Kimberley reopened to the rest of Western Australia**

The Federal Government has agreed to the State Government's request to remove the Commonwealth Biosecurity restrictions, meaning the Kimberley, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku and parts of the East Pilbara will reopen to all Western Australians from June 5, 2020.

The State Government applied to lift the biosecurity restrictions, with no active cases of the virus in regional areas and no positive cases of COVID-19 reported in remote communities.

### **General Health Advice**

The West Australian government advises residents in conjunction with the easing of restrictions, social distancing measures must be adhered to. These include:

- Avoiding close contact – staying 1.5m apart
- Downloading the COVIDSafe app
- Washing your hands regularly and practicing proper cough and sneezing etiquette
- Adhering to the 4sqm rule when in public spaces

### **Further information**

More information will be available on the WA Government COVID-19 response website at [www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus](http://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus)

The Business Industry and Advice phone line is: 13 26 843

Details of the WA Stimulus Package is available [here](#).

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant [Simon Banks](#) on +61 419 638 587.