

## Travel Restrictions within WA (Intrastate Travel)

### Member Update

Members are reminded that, to stop the spread of Covid-19, the restrictions on travel within Western Australia (intrastate travel) came into effect at 11.59pm on 31 March 2020.

The restrictions were imposed by the **Prohibition on Regional Travel Directions (*Prohibition*)** which has been published on the wa.gov.au website [here](#). The Prohibition is the legal instrument that gives effect to the intrastate travel restrictions announced by the Premier on 27 March 2020 (Media Statement [here](#)) and further detailed in the Premier's media statement on 31 March 2020 ( [here](#)).

In summary, the Prohibition restricts travel within WA in the following ways:

- Western Australians are confined to their regional boundary, except for specified reasons set out in the Prohibition, *which include* employment purposes.
- **Regional boundaries** mirror those of the Regional Development Commissions (refer to Map [here](#)), although Perth and Peel have been combined into one region due to their close proximity. The 9 regions are therefore as follows:
  - Perth and Peel
  - South-West
  - Great Southern
  - Goldfield-Esperance
  - Mid-West
  - Wheatbelt
  - Gascoyne
  - Pilbara
  - Kimberley
- **General employment** – The ability to travel for employment purposes applies only to the extent necessary for a person to undertake the travel for the purpose of attending their place of employment or fulfilling the duties of their employment, office or occupation.
- In addition to the above general employment reason, some members may fall within the exception to the travel restrictions to the extent that they are performing an 'essential service' as defined in the Prohibition, which relevantly includes:
  - **Specialist Skills:**
    - Any specialists required for industry or business continuity and maintenance of competitive operation, where the service is time-critical;
    - Any person who, in the course of their duties, is responsible for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to a region or to WA; or

- Persons who ordinarily travel from one region to another for work purposes for regular periods according to established work schedules (such as, for example, fly in-fly out (FIFO) workers).
- **Other essential services** – Any person employed or engaged in the provision or maintenance of utility or waste management services.
- It is an offence to fail to comply with the Prohibition, punishable by a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for bodies corporate.

Members should note that:

- No requirement to self-isolate has been included in the Prohibition. This means that, should you fall within one of the specified purposes for which travel is allowed (including specified employment purposes as set out above), you are not required to self-isolate either in or when you return from the region of WA that you travel to.
- Common sense should be applied. If a person suspects they may have come into contact with someone with Covid-19, they should immediately follow the government's health advice.
- Members should however be aware of and comply with the restrictions on travel to the Kimberley and remote Aboriginal Communities (see below), and the self-isolation requirements upon returning to WA following interstate and overseas travel, and if a person is attending a medical centre to be tested or has been tested for Covid-19 (see 'Other travel restrictions' below).

### **Travel to the Kimberley & remote Aboriginal communities**

Additional restrictions apply to the Kimberley and remote Aboriginal communities. Travel restrictions were imposed on 26 March 2020 into the Kimberley, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku and parts of the Shire of East Pilbara that encompass the communities of Jigalong, Martu homeland communities and Kiwirrkurra. Restrictions also apply to biosecurity areas in the state.

Further information is available in the Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions [here](#) and on the government's website [here](#).

### **Proof of work-related travel**

Businesses and employees that work across regional boundaries should be prepared to be stopped by Police and require documented proof of the need to cross those regional boundaries. Master Builders recommends that each employee or contractor working on a project across boundaries carries with them personal identification and documentation proving their work requirements.

We have prepared a template Letter for members to use as a guide. The letter is intended to assist you with the types of information to include to demonstrate your need to cross regional boundaries

for work purposes. Please note, it does not constitute legal or professional advice on the matter and if you do not understand your obligations, you should seek advice specific to your circumstances.

You can access Master Builder's **Template Intrastate travel work requirements letter** [here](#) by logging in to the member portal.

## Health & Safety Requirements whilst travelling & working

It is recommended that businesses speak to their employees, staff and contractors to ensure they are very clear on the government requirements around social distancing, in addition to the health and safety duties owed broadly, whilst undertaking intrastate work.

The usual social distancing and hygiene protocols should be applied both whilst travelling to/from the workplace, and whilst at the workplace, to ensure the health and safety of all and avoid the spread of Covid-19. Businesses should not send workers intrastate across regional boundaries without clearly articulating the requirements and being confident in the worker's ability and commitment to fully comply with them.

This includes:

- **Social distancing requirements** – ensuring all workers engage in social distancing, by remaining a minimum of 1.5 metres away from all other persons (including colleagues) and employing the general 4m<sup>2</sup> minimum per person rule when working on worksites with others.
  - This includes travel to and from a worksite. Travel in cars should be limited to two people travelling in a small vehicle provided the passenger sits in the back seat on the opposite side of the vehicle to the driver. Larger vehicles or buses that provide for more passengers must still apply the 1.5 metre rule between passengers.
  - When on a worksite, workers should not share lifts or other spaces without 1.5 metres distance between them and any other persons at any time.
- **Hygiene requirements** – ensuring that cleaning schedules on construction sites are increased to alleviate risk from touching of objects and surfaces and workers avoid sharing tools and do not cross-contaminate plant and equipment.
  - Frequently touched surfaces on a construction site, including any plant, equipment, lifts, hoists, handrails and doors, should be cleaned frequently using appropriate detergent or disinfectant solutions.
  - Site amenities, including lunch-rooms, site offices, change rooms, toilets, showers, drink fountains and vending machines, should be cleaned industrially and the frequency of this cleaning should increase.
  - To minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19, the person cleaning should wear gloves and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves. Gloves and hand sanitiser should be made available throughout the construction site.
  - Workers should be trained to clean down plant or equipment immediately after use.

If these requirements cannot be met, employers should immediately make changes to meet the requirements, or to reschedule or cancel the intended work until it is safe to carry out the work.

Summaries of the health and safety requirements around Covid-19 that all persons operating in the building and construction industry must follow are available on the Master Builders website [here](#).

**These measures are essential to protecting lives, and to ensuring the building and construction industry can continue operating safely during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

### **Other travel restrictions**

All Covid-19 related Declarations issued under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* (WA) and the *Public Health Act 2016* (WA) are published on the government's website [here](#).

Other relevant travel restrictions include:

- Border controls
- Self-isolation requirements following interstate travel
- Self-isolation requirements following overseas travel
- Self-isolation test and close contact directions (applicable to anyone tested for Covid-19).

Members should act responsibly and ensure that all persons within their business, contractors and supply chain comply with the restrictions to avoid the spread of Covid-19 and save lives.

**Should you have queries regarding health and safety matters, please contact our team on [mba@mbawa.com](mailto:mba@mbawa.com) or (08) 9476 9800 and we will direct your query.**

**Should you require legal advice on these matters, please contact our Legal Advice Line on 1300 651 959 (free for members).**