

BULLETIN: 61/2020

REGIONAL VICTORIA TO MOVE TO THIRD STEP OF THE ROADMAP FOR REOPENING

The Victorian Government has announced that regional Victoria will move to the Third Step of the state's roadmap for reopening from 11.59pm on Wednesday 16 September.

The Premier's Statement is available here: <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/statement-premier-59>.

Moving to the Third Step means several changes to how regional Victorians live and work, including but not limited to:

- People will be able to gather in groups of ten in outdoor public places, without a limit on the number of households.
- Hospitality businesses will be able to serve patrons outdoors, with a cap of 50 seated patrons per venue, and an updated 'two square metre' density limit in place.
- Outdoor events like a play in the park or an open-air cinema can take place, in accordance with other restrictions.

The full roadmaps for metropolitan and regional areas and industry restrictions by region are available here: <https://www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-roadmaps>.

Further information on the roadmap for easing of restrictions is available at the Department of Health and Human Services website here: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>.

Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package

The Victorian Government has also announced an \$87million package to support hospitality businesses prepare for COVID Normal reopening across Victoria.

Metropolitan councils and regional city councils will be eligible for up to \$500,000 in assistance, while rural councils will be eligible for up to \$250,000.

This money will be available to deliver streetscaping, increased public amenities and broadened permits for local businesses to enable footpath trading.

Grants of up to \$5000 will be available for hospitality businesses to help them adapt to outdoor dining for a COVID Normal reopening, in line with Victoria's Roadmap for hospitality.

Guidelines for the funding programmes are currently being finalised and will be released to councils soon, alongside draft funding agreements.

Regards

Colin Morrison
Acting Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

Authorised by Colin Morrison, Acting Executive Director, Local Government Victoria
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Level 35, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne



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