

NECA MEMBER COVID-19 UPDATE

LATEST FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. NCCC COVIDSAFE PLAN FOR BUSINESS

To help businesses reopen and be COVIDSafe, the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) has developed an online tool for business to come up with a COVIDSafe business plan.

The tool brings together information from across government on the range of help and assistance available to support businesses. This tool complements the [Safe Work Australia online hub](#), which remains the definitive source of information for businesses to understand their work health and safety obligations. The plan should be updated and reviewed as conditions and restrictions change.

The tool should take about 30 minutes to complete and leave businesses with a clear idea about what they will do to keep people safe, how they will get their business back up and running and how they might adapt their operating model.

It will also help businesses to plan practical steps such as organising supplies, updating insurance and reactivating subscriptions, and provides links to the assistance available to help them reopen, including help with cash flow, wages and loans.

For more information:

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/nccc/resources/planning-tool-help-businesses-reopen-and-be-covidsafe>

2. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING

The Department of Finance has published new guidance for Commonwealth departments and agencies to work collaboratively with suppliers to ensure business continuity and to take action, where appropriate, to ensure that supply chains are able to be maintained. This includes:

- relaxing or waiving some contractual rights where appropriate to address COVID-19 circumstances;
- generally avoiding exercising of termination rights or liquidated damages; or
- revised payment arrangements.

The Government also expects agencies to pay suppliers quicker than the maximum 20 day payment terms, and is making payments of electronic invoices within five days where suppliers and agencies have adopted e-invoicing consistent with the international standard. Small invoices under \$10,000 should be paid immediately by card payment systems. This will assist businesses with their cash flow and support jobs.

In addition, the Department of Finance and the Department of Defence have established a Procurement Hub, working together to assist agencies with specific COVID-19 related

procurement activities. The Procurement Hub is providing assistance to agencies through advice, technical solutions and resources where required.

For more information:

<https://www.finance.gov.au/government/procurement/covid-19-procurement-policy-note>

LATEST STATE AND TERRITORY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Contact your local NECA Chapter website for regular updates.