



Office of the
Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *ECP/DCP – TF/20/5206 – DOC/20/61965*

6 May 2020

Mr Peter Jones
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Dear Mr Jones

Thank you for your letter of 27 March 2020 regarding the deeming of vacuum, draining, cleaning and high-pressure water jetting operators and associated businesses as essential services. I have been requested to reply to you on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade.

These are unprecedented times, and the Queensland Government knows businesses and workers are being hit hard with many people experiencing considerable trauma in the face of uncertainty.

The Queensland Government recognises, and appreciates, the valuable contribution business in your sector make to the Queensland economy, both in terms of the important products and services provided as well as the jobs it supports.

While calls for greater certainty on the application of public health measures for businesses are acknowledged, protecting the health of Queenslanders is the Queensland Government's number one priority. The Queensland Government is being guided by the advice of Queensland's Chief Health Officer (CHO) and medical experts from across Australia to ensure appropriate, proportionate measures are in place to protect all Queenslanders from the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). These measures are a critical part of the Queensland and Australian response to COVID-19 and will continue to be updated as the situation evolves.

There is no list of essential services. However, details of non-essential businesses, activities, and undertakings can be found in the latest Queensland CHO Public Health Directive 'Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction'. If your activity, business or undertaking is not defined by this Direction as 'non-essential', it can continue. However, it must comply with all other relevant health directions and guidelines including, for example, directions about social distancing. Special restrictions may apply if you or your employees have been in COVID-19 hot spots.

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Queensland Government has closed the Queensland border. People are only permitted to enter Queensland if they are a Queensland resident or meet stringent criteria for exemptions. People who wish to enter Queensland should apply for a Queensland Entry Pass, and are encouraged to do so online, to avoid delays at the border. An application for an entry pass can be made online at www.covid19.qld.gov.au and click on (1) 'Government actions', (2) 'Border closure' and then (3) 'a Queensland Entry Pass'.

You can stay up-to-date with new information by referring to the relevant CHO directions, which are accessible online at www.health.qld.gov.au and click on (1) 'Health system & governance', (2) 'Legislation' and then (3) 'Chief Health Officer public health directions'. Any further concerns or questions you may have can be sent to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's COVID-19 Taskforce by email at dpccovid19_rrt@premiers.qld.gov.au.

The impacts of COVID-19 on the economy are being continually monitored by the National Cabinet. The Queensland Government will ensure the National Cabinet considers further measures as they are needed so businesses, and the people who work for them, are supported and ready to continue as part of the Queensland economy once COVID-19 has been contained.

Advice from the Queensland and Federal Governments, including information on business and industry support packages are available on the Queensland Government website at www.covid19.qld.gov.au and then click on 'Industry and business' and on the Federal Government Business website at www.business.gov.au and click on 'Coronavirus information and support for business'. These websites are being updated as decisions are being made, and you are encouraged to continue to check them for relevant support measures.

Again, thank you for bringing this issue to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely



DENISE SPINKS
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF