



A message from the CEO

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update 1/5

Coronavirus update

Today I again participated in the Premier's Industry Response and Recovery Council. The majority of the discussion centred on developing a road map to ease restrictions.

The Government is hoping to release further information late next week provided that we are able to maintain our very low number of Coronavirus cases. To support this effort, the Government is continuing with its Testing, Tracing and Rapid Response policy to try and ensure that we keep a tight hold on the Coronavirus' footprint in South Australia.

While the Government is wary about the hurt that businesses are experiencing, they are reluctant to remove restrictions early and then need to reintroduce restrictions should the number of Coronavirus cases increase again. They are likely to continue with restrictions on group meetings and social distancing rules.

The Premier specifically requested that we contact members regarding the Coronavirus App. This is a central pillar of the Tracing element of the Government's policy and they want as many people as possible to download the app.

Downloading the app is your choice and you have to be comfortable with the data that the Government is requesting, however, this is a key indicator that the Government is looking at as they remove restrictions.

The week, some stimulus money should have been received by eligible members from the ATO. With stimulus money arriving and better than expected infection information, it would appear that we are no longer facing six months of doom and gloom, but rather a staged recovery may already be underway. The good work of the South Australian community may mean we can return to something more like normal with less impact on businesses sooner rather than later.

MTA Online Division and Zone meetings

In March we communicated with all members that we were suspending member meetings until the end of April.

After reassessing the current situation concerning the Coronavirus we have decided to recommence member meetings via Electronic format.

During the month of May we will conduct "Member Communication Meetings" across all 12 divisions and 10 zones that will last a maximum of 1 hour.

You will soon receive an electronic invite to join your fellow division or zone members for the May meeting. Should you have any questions regarding the meeting or how to join via the technology please [click here](#).

Tour and charter operators

The MTA on behalf of the Independent Bus and Coach Operators Committee has recently made an application for operator accreditation and registration relief to the State Government's Business and Jobs Support Fund.

The submission calls upon the State Government to deliver relief to tour and charter operators who have been heavily impacted by not only the COVID-19 pandemic, but also the summer bushfires which have ground tourism activity to a virtual standstill.

Accreditation and bus registration fee relief is essential for operators to be able to do business, so the MTA has argued that the industry deserves relief, so that it can stand ready to take on any work that may arise during this quiet period. This support will also ensure operators can stay in business and rebound when life returns to normal.

Stay safe and please call the office or me on 0419 814 642.

Paul Unerkov
MTA CEO
