



# MEDIA RELEASE

21 September 2021

## **CCF Victoria media statement on union protests**

**The following is attributable to Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) Victoria chief executive John Kilgour:**

CCF Victoria condemns the actions of yesterday's protestors. They do not represent the civil construction industry, nor do they speak for our workforce.

CCF Victoria supports COVID vaccinations and the protection they will provide our workforce and the wider community.

CCF Victoria is disappointed that the Victorian government's decision to shut down the building, construction and property industry, which employs 300,000 Victorians and is critical to sustaining the state's economy, does not appear to have taken into account the low-density, low-risk and outdoor environment of the civil construction sector.

The vast majority of employers and workers are doing the right thing by getting vaccinated. This same majority has been doing everything that has been required of them to meet the highest COVID-safe standards since the onset of the pandemic.

We will work with the State Government in developing a practical framework and roadmap for a full return to work, as well as any programs to provide economic support to the civil construction industry, businesses and workers in the interim.

We are encouraged by the most recent Directions from Chief Health Officer in the *Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions (No 45)* released earlier this afternoon that now clearly differentiate "Early Stage Land Development Sites" from other construction industry sectors.

The inclusion of this terms of reference by the CHO provides Government with a clear pathway forward to reopening the civil construction sector as a priority given the low-risk of COVID-19 infections on civil construction sites with densities of only 10 workers per hectare (i.e. 1 worker per 1000m<sup>2</sup>) providing a safe, social-distancing environment that is outdoors-based.

Our industry takes very seriously its responsibility to its people and to the broader Victorian community to do everything it can to prevent any COVID outbreaks.

Our industry is resilient and will continue to enforce the highest standards of compliance.

It is essential that our industry gets back to work as quickly as possible and CCF Victoria is advocating strongly for it to do so.

## **ENDS**

For more information and to interview John, please contact Marcus Tainsh at Good Talent Media on 0426 996 733



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