



Association of Consulting Architects
The Business of Architecture

VIC/TAS branch

Box 17, Flinders Lane Post Office
Melbourne, VIC 8009
ABN 57 329 735 518

T +61 1300 653 026
M +61 (0)432 646 711
E nat@aca.org.au
www.aca.org.au

4 August 2020

The Honourable Martin Pakula
Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – COVID-19
Level 36, 121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000

Dear Minister

We congratulate you and the Government's efforts in dealing with the current COVID-19 pandemic. We understand and support the need to introduce Stage 4 restrictions, however, wish to point out an anomaly with the classifications for Architects.

The Premier's announcement referred to keeping the pilot light going for the construction sector especially given the exemptions provided to the sector for the construction of critical and essential infrastructure and for State and State Civil construction (including time critical school builds) being exempt from reduction targets but required to implement High Risk COVID Safe Plans.

As architects are an integral part of the delivery and on-site safety processes, it is imperative that we can continue to operate albeit in a significantly reduced manner with a maximum of 25% normal employees (as per contractors) able to work from their office comply with our contractual obligations and to enable the continued flow of information and drawings for projects that might otherwise grind to a halt.

We acknowledge that although a number of tasks can be completed from a home office, there are significant technology and security limitations especially for sensitive critical infrastructure projects that could be placed in jeopardy if Architects cannot access their offices.

We seek your support in this matter so that works on site don't grind to a halt and so there is a pipeline of opportunities available to the industry once we get to the other side of this current crisis.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Viney', written in a cursive style.

Paul Viney
ACA Victoria / Tasmania President
ACA Australia Secretary