

Hon Stephan Knoll MP

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government
Minister for Planning

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Emergency planning powers to keep construction moving and more people in jobs

Emergency planning powers have been introduced to ensure that South Australia's development industry can continue to operate, construction is not delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and local jobs and businesses have a pipeline of work.

"These emergency planning powers are part of our strong plan to keep more South Australians in a job, ensure there is work for local businesses and keep our economy ticking over as we deal with the impacts of the coronavirus," said Minister for Planning Stephan Knoll.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to find new and effective ways of keeping our state's development systems and construction industry running efficiently and effectively.

"The development assessment system has experienced some disruptions and delays in the processing of development applications due to the increased number of councils temporarily reducing or shutting core functions or through reduced staff numbers.

"The Marshall Government has put in urgent, but temporary measures to ensure that development applications can continue to be processed to support South Australia's construction industry.

"The construction industry is a huge employer in South Australia, supporting tens of thousands of local jobs, businesses and in turn, families and households.

"We are ensuring that all businesses involved in the development application process, including drafters, planners and building surveyors, have a continued flow of work providing job security for thousands of South Australians.

"These new regulations mean further time efficiencies can be achieved and the development system can continue to operate even if a council is forced to temporarily close or work under reduced staff levels.

"These changes provide reassurance to the development industry as well as local businesses and the community that the current pandemic will not cause undue delays to development assessments."

New Development (Public Health Emergency) Variation Regulations (2020) to the Development Regulations 2008 under the Development Act 1993 were introduced this week and provide for:

- Ministerial call-in of development applications from Councils where they cannot be assessed or there are significant delays in their assessment due to COVID-19. The Minister's powers will only be exercised where there is a clear and demonstrated delay to development applications, particularly where applications are of economic importance or significance.



- Removing the requirement for developments called in by the Minister or otherwise assessed by the State Planning Commission to be referred to the relevant Council for advice – noting that where technical information is required from a council that can still be sought administratively.
- Amending the provisions relating to development applications referred to Government Agencies to require advice to be provided within 20 business days and requests for further information to be made within 5 business days.
- Ensuring that public meetings relating to development matters can be held by audio or audio-visual means.
- Ensuring that where required public inspection of development applications can be via the internet.
- Temporary removal of conditions of planning consent that limit the hours in which goods can be delivered to any premises of a kind specified by notice on the SA planning portal. These could include, for example, restaurants providing take-away meals, chemists or bottle shops.