



**MEDIA RELEASE  
RICHMOND SHIRE COUNCIL  
APRIL 1, 2020**

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**COVID 19 UPDATE 6**

Richmond Shire Council has implemented further restrictions around non-essential travelers and external contractors coming into the Shire for work.

Mayor John Wharton said “This is about securing jobs for our community and assisting our businesses to have the opportunity to re-open their doors when this crisis is over”

“Accommodation Houses are vital to ensuring works in our Shire continue” he said. Mayor Wharton said “Council has worked with local motels and hotels and each site will provide isolation areas for work crews, essentially making them gated communities. These teams will live, eat and sleep in an enclosed area and be transported to and from worksites outside of the Town area.”

The Lakeview Caravan Park has a number of cabins which are occupied by workers. Visitors to the park are discouraged from coming and a strict screening process is adhered to. If travelers are coming from a known hot spot they are not permitted to stay and Police are enforcing the non-essential travel ruling.

Kronosaurus Korner General Manager Jodie Fox said Kronosaurus Korner was impacted significantly with the Government restrictions around travel and communal spaces. “We were faced with having to reduce our staffing numbers, but with Council keeping the Van Park open and deploying staff to work there, we have been able to retain 4 permanent staff and three casuals” Mrs Fox said

“Richmond is an accommodation hub in the Midwest with 136 rooms available for these external work crews, if we ceased all scheduled works 6 accommodation providers would experience financial strain and the job losses may be something we never recover from” John said.

As the largest employer in the Shire, Richmond Shire Council CEO Peter Bennett has stated that annual leave for all Staff will be restricted for non-essential travel and those choosing to leave the Shire for non-essential reasons will be required to self-isolate for 14 days at their expense prior to resuming work. “We are taking this crisis very seriously, it is time for us all to pull together so that we can resume our normal lifestyle as soon as possible” Mr Bennett said.

Richmond Shire Council will also be providing flu vaccinations for all employees should they wish to receive one.

**Please direct all enquiries to Mayor – John Wharton – 0427 777 660**

**Or Chief Executive Officer Peter Bennett – 0438 685 224**