

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Inquiry into the Victorian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

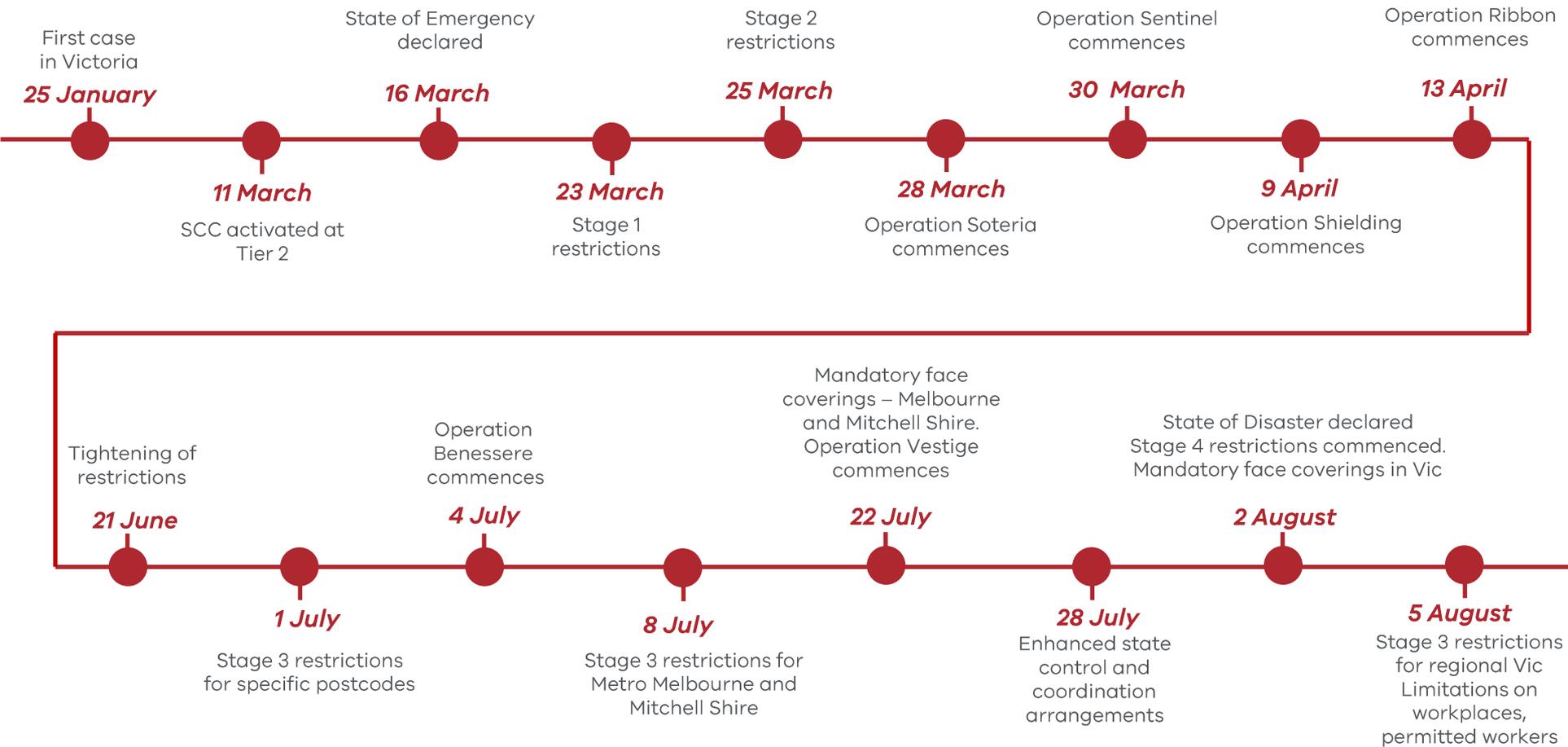
The Hon Lisa Neville MP

*Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for the Coordination of Environment, Water,
Land and Planning – COVID-19*

Wednesday 26 August 2020



COVID-19 Emergency Management – Timeline



Police Response

Victoria Police has undertaken and supported significant operations to encourage and maintain compliance with public health directions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



OPERATION SENTINEL

500 police officers

with the aim of ensuring containment measures to combat COVID-19 and support CHO directions

8 permanent vehicle checkpoints

along with **mobile and agile patrols** across the state monitoring restricted/unrestricted divisional borders



OPERATION BENESSERE

Undertaken to support the residents of nine public housing towers in Flemington and North Melbourne, which were subject to a Public Health Directive placing them in lockdown. The role of Victoria Police was to ensure safety and public order at the sites whilst facilitating the delivery of food relief and other services.



OPERATION RIBBON

Specialist detectives from the Family Violence Investigation Units (FVIU) across the state are assisting Victorians who are at greater risk due to the 'Stay at Home' restrictions

As at 16th August, Operation Ribbon has seen

17,109 interactions

12,053 contacts to affected family members

5,055 contacts to perpetrators



OPERATION VESTIGE

Commenced on 22 July 2020 and aims to ensure that every positive COVID case is visited at their home within in a day of their positive test result. ADF personnel and DHHS authorised officers make two unsuccessful attempts to call and visit before referring a person to Victoria Police.

Between 22 July 2020 (when Operation Vestige commenced) and 14 August 2020, Victoria Police undertook

15,054 checks on diagnosed persons and close contacts under quarantine orders



OPERATION SHIELDING

Protective Services Officers and police officers patrol retail precincts and public spaces in highly visible teams to prevent crime and provide public reassurance

COVID-19 compliance and enforcement

Figures current as at 20 August 2020

Community compliance with Chief Health Officer and Deputy Chief Health Officer emergency directions is critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Throughout the emergency, Victorians have demonstrated strong compliance with public health restrictions



318,787

total checks conducted



500,000+

vehicles checked

Oversight is in place to ensure Victoria Police are issuing fines in a fair and balanced manner.

The Victorian Government is supporting vulnerable Victorians to be able to comply with emergency directions.

As of 16 March 2020, the Police Assistance Line has been available for the public to report breaches of the CHO directions including breaches in relation to mass gatherings, self-isolation or businesses that have been prohibited to operate. From 20 March to 123 August there have been approximately

154,784

COVID-19 related calls to the Police Assistance Line

As of 10 April 2020, the public was also able to report CHO breaches online through the online reporting portal. From 10 April to 23 August there have been almost

35,665

on-line reports

19,324

Fines issues for COVID-related offences including:

1669

fines for failure to wear a face covering

2145

fines for curfew breaches

20

fines for people failing to self-isolate

5761

warnings issued for non-compliance of directions

Emergency Management – Roles and Arrangements

DIFFERENT CLASSES OF EMERGENCIES

Class 1 emergency: *major fire or any other major emergency for which FRV, CFA or VICSES is the control agency.*

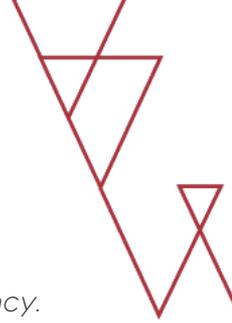
Emergency Management Commissioner appoints state controllers and control agency

Class 2 emergency: *major emergency which is not a Class 1 emergency or a Class 3 emergency. Includes major emergencies such as a pandemic, transport disruption, animal or plant disease, major electricity outage, water disruption, and food contamination.*

Primary agency is the control agency and appoints state controller

Class 3 emergency: *security emergency including warlike act or act of terrorism, siege or riot. Class 3 emergency may also be referred to as security emergencies..*

Victoria Police is the control agency and has full responsibility for the response to Class 3 emergencies.



State of Disaster

On 2 August 2020, the Premier declared a State of Disaster under section 23(1) of the Emergency Management Act 2013 (the EM Act).

A State of Disaster, under section 23(1) of the Emergency Management Act 2013 (the EM Act), enlivens emergency powers under the EM Act, which allow me, as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to:

- ▼ *suspend the application of legislation*
- ▼ *restrict movement*
- ▼ *compel evacuation*
- ▼ *take possession of property*
- ▼ *direct and co-ordinate government agencies and allocate government resources as needed to respond to the disaster.*

The declaration was made on the basis that COVID-19 is an emergency which constitutes a significant and widespread danger to life in Victoria.

These additional powers will ensure the Government can act in timely manner to immediate risks associated with COVID-19 in and when required.



Emergency Management – State Control Centre operations

On 11 March 2020, the State Control Centre (SCC) was activated to support the Department of Health and Human Services as the Control Agency to oversee and coordinate Victoria's response to the spread of COVID-19.



2,880

CANISTERS OF SURFACE WIPES



14,593

**EMERGENCY FOOD PACKS TO
AFFECTED PUBLIC HOUSING
ESTATE RESIDENTS**



5,149

**ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FOOD
RELIEF PACKS DELIVERED
STATEWIDE**



2.09 million

SINGLE USE GLOVES



80,200

SURGICAL MASKS



131,000

P2/N95/KN95 MASKS



41,400

PROTECTIVE DISPOSABLE OVERALLS



130,000

LITRES OF HAND SANITIZER

Figures current as at 24 August 2020

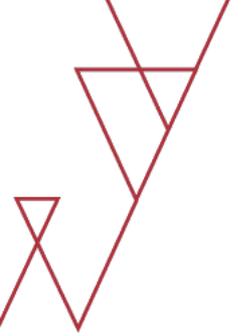
Coordination of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Coordination portfolio for restoration and reform of public services

Key initiatives to date include:

- *Oversighting critical whole of government work on recovery and reform of key government economic services*
- *Establishing a Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce to help keep Victoria's building and development industry operational*
- *Supporting Working for Victoria, and generating job opportunities across the state*
- *Ensuring hardship provisions are aligned with national principles where relevant and in place for those in need across water and energy*
- *Supporting entities and organisations that have been hardest hit by the restrictions, including support to Alpine resorts and committees of management in addition to Zoos Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Park*
- *Supporting land managers with consistent advice on implementing health directions*
- *Supporting Victorians to manage their energy bills with increased solar PV installations*
- *Enabling all property transactions to be lodged electronically, apart from people doing their own conveyancing. Over 99 per cent of transactions are being lodged electronically, an extremely important factor in the current environment and has enabled public counters to be closed*
- *Developing new ways of working with the community that keeps staff and all Victorians who rely on them, safe*





Thank you.

