



Australian Government

**SM20/0613/NATCAB**

**29 May 2020**

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0613</b>	<b>FUTURE OF NATIONAL CABINET</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the oral update and placemat provided by the Prime Minister on the Future of National Cabinet and reformed arrangements for the architecture of Federal-State relations.
2. Agreed:
  - (a) National Cabinet has made an important contribution to minimising the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 and will continue to pursue reforms in the national interest beyond the pandemic
  - (b) National Cabinet's agenda will remain confined to a limited number of issues at any one time to enable it to maintain focus and purpose
  - (c) the initial focus of National Cabinet will be job creation as the economy emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic
  - (d) National Cabinet will be able to establish and task National Cabinet Reform Committees to progress priority reform issues and those Committees will:
    - (i) be led by a Commonwealth representative
    - (ii) report directly to the National Cabinet
  - (e) National Cabinet will continue to engage directly with experts relevant to the issue being considered, including existing Expert Advisory Groups such as the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and Heads of Treasuries and additional groups as appropriate

- (f) National Cabinet will continue as a Federal Cabinet Office Policy Committee operating under Cabinet rules, with National Cabinet Reform Committees also operating under Cabinet rules
- (g) the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) will report to National Cabinet and will:
  - (i) operate under Cabinet rules
  - (ii) take responsibility for managing all Federal-State funding agreements, including National Partnership Agreements (NPAs)
  - (iii) initiate a review of all NPAs with the intent of rationalising and decreasing the number of Agreements
- (h) National Cabinet, together with CFFR and the Australian Local Government Association, will constitute the National Federation Reform Council (the Council), which will:
  - (i) meet annually face-to-face
  - (ii) be able to establish Taskforces to support the Council on priority national federation issues, such as Closing the Gap and Women's Safety
- (i) existing Ministerial Forums and Ministerial Regulatory Councils will be reviewed and rationalised and, if retained, will be expected to resolve issues themselves and not have a direct connection with the National Cabinet
- (j) all NPAs will be transferred to CFFR for management and future funding arrangements attached to issues addressed by Ministerial Forums and Regulatory Councils will be negotiated with and by CFFR
- (k) National Cabinet will:
  - (i) continue to meet every two weeks while it manages the impacts of COVID-19
  - (ii) shift to monthly meetings at an appropriate time
  - (iii) continue to meet via telepresence with at least one face-to-face National Cabinet meeting a year
  - (iv) retain discretion to vary these arrangements as required

- (l) to consider further:
  - (i) the number, focus and terms of reference of the National Cabinet Reform Committees referred to in paragraph 2(d) above
  - (ii) the reset of the Ministerial Forums and Ministerial Regulatory Councils referred to in paragraph 2(i) above
  - (iii) the National Federation Reform Council and related Taskforces.

*Original authorised by*

Cabinet Secretary

Agreed as Final by the Prime Minister



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/17

12 June 2020

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## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on:
  - (a) progress with negotiations on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including the planned consideration of the Agreement by the Joint Council on 3 July 2020 and by First Ministers by the end of July 2020
  - (b) the Commonwealth Government's ('the Commonwealth') intention to intervene in forthcoming proceedings in the High Court with respect to state border restrictions contravening s.92 of the Constitution on the basis of the Commonwealth's interest in policy positions that arise from the High Court's interpretation of s.92
  - (c) work now under way by the Commonwealth on the future of current economic support arrangements.
2. Agreed:
  - (a) the subjects to be covered by first National Cabinet Reform Committees:
    - (i) rural and regional
    - (ii) skills
    - (iii) energy

- (iv) infrastructure and transport
    - (v) population and migration
    - (vi) health
  - (b) to consider the proposed forward agendas for those Committees at the National Cabinet's next meeting.
3. Agreed, consistent with draft letter from the Prime Minister to the Commonwealth Treasurer circulated to States and Territories, that the Council on Federal Financial Relations will be:
- (a) responsible for reform proposals on tax, deregulation and housing
  - (b) specifically tasked with preparing:
    - (i) an interim report to the National Cabinet by the end of July 2020 setting out a target number of revised National Partnership Agreements (NPAs) and a proposed plan to achieve that outcome
    - (ii) a detailed plan for the consolidation and rationalisation of NPAs for consideration by the National Cabinet in late August 2020.
4. Noted the oral update by the Chief Medical Officer on the latest epidemiological data, including the very low number of cases of community transmission.
5. Reconfirmed that:
- (a) the national COVID-19 response strategy continues to be based on the objective of suppression
  - (b) while zero cases have been achieved in some jurisdictions for some time, new cases will likely arise under the suppression approach.
6. Agreed Health officials continue to emphasise the suppression objective to reassure the community that new cases are manageable and consistent with the strategy adopted.

7. Noted:
  - (a) the *Pandemic Health Intelligence Report (PHIP) – Issue 2* – covering the period 25 May to 7 June 2020, which provided sufficient data to assess the initial impacts of the implementation of Step 1 of the Three Step Framework
  - (b) the updated precedent conditions
  - (c) the updated modelling figures.
8. Agreed to publication of the:
  - (a) precedent conditions status table
  - (b) summary version of the measures, metrics and thresholds from the PHIP.
9. Noted the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC) statement on the review of physical distancing and person density restrictions.
10. Agreed the AHPPC provide further advice on the application of the 4sqm density restriction in smaller indoor venues.
11. Noted the update from each jurisdiction on:
  - (a) their progress against the Three Step Framework for easing of restrictions
  - (b) the likely timing of their move to Step 3 of the Framework
  - (c) the likely timing of any changes to their border arrangements (where currently in place)
  - (d) the general public mood regarding restrictions following the protests of the past week.
12. Reaffirmed National Cabinet's commitment to having Step 3 of the previously agreed Three Step Framework in place during July 2020.
13. Endorsed the AHPPC principles for safe implementation of Step 3.
14. Agreed the following changes to restrictions in Step 3 of the Framework, based on AHPPC advice:
  - (a) indoor gatherings: removal of the 100-person limit on non-essential indoor gatherings but retaining the one person per 4sqm with COVID safe practices

- (b) outdoor cultural and sporting events, including in stadiums:
  - (i) for venues up to 40,000 spectator capacity, events need to be ticketed with seating required and attendance will be able to be limited to no more than 25 per cent capacity
  - (ii) for outdoor venues of more than 40,000 spectator capacity, further advice is to be sought from the AHPPC.

15. Reaffirmed that high-risk venues and-high risk outdoor events such as nightclubs and music festivals (unless conditions required for outdoor cultural and sporting events outlined in paragraph 14 above are met) will not be permitted in Step 3 and will be considered following further advice from medical experts.

16. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on:

- (a) the work being done by the Commonwealth on a staged approach to the easing of international border restrictions
- (b) progress with the arrangements for the Trans-Tasman Travel Zone
- (c) the need for agreement on National Border Coordination arrangements to manage border and biosecurity risks at Australian air ports.

17. Agreed to work closely and carefully to return international students to Australia on a small scale through a series of controlled pilots, with:

- (a) jurisdictions to work with their higher education institutions on detailed pilot arrangements addressing necessary health, quarantine and funding arrangements
- (b) jurisdictions to work with the Commonwealth on appropriate visa and border entry arrangements for their pilots
- (c) individual jurisdictions meeting the following preconditions:
  - (i) a jurisdiction's internal borders would need to be open to other Australians before international students would be permitted to enter Australia to study in that jurisdiction
  - (ii) a return to on-campus learning for domestic students and international students already in Australia will be required before new international students are allowed.

18. Noted the oral update by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury on the current economic outlook and labour market challenges.

19. Agreed that infrastructure and deregulation are priorities for economic recovery and to discuss at the National Cabinet's next meeting:

- (a) establishing joint assessment teams for new priority major projects
- (b) moving to a single-touch decision making process for environment approvals under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth)
- (c) setting targets to reduce approval times for building and construction projects
- (d) other regulatory reforms proposed by jurisdictions.

20. Agreed to explore the sharing of data to better target employment and training and other services.

21. Noted the publication by the AHPPC of advice on:

- (a) *Use of Masks by the Public in the Community* (published on 28 May 2020)
- (b) *Guidance on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Hospitals during the COVID-19 Outbreak* (originally published on 14 February 2020 and updated on 27 May 2020).

22. Agreed at the next meeting on 26 June 2020:

- (a) the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury will provide an economic update
- (b) the Chair of the Productivity Commission will provide a briefing on deregulation.

Cabinet Secretary





**Australian Government**

**SM20/0266/NATCAB/18**

**26 June 2020**

**CABINET MINUTE  
NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Thanked the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Professor Brendan Murphy, for his outstanding leadership on the COVID-19 response and wished him well in his new role as Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of Health.
2. Noted the National Partnership on COVID-19 Response would be updated by the end of September 2020 to:
  - (a) cease the public hospital component
  - (b) allow private hospitals to opt out of the viability guarantee
  - (c) ensure the public health component focuses on the essential ongoing response and recovery needs such as testing and tracing and local surge capacity.
3. Noted the oral update by the CMO on the:
  - (a) latest epidemiological data
  - (b) localised outbreaks in Victoria and the health response under way
  - (c) continuing risk of community cases linked to hotel quarantine.

4. Noted the update on the response to recent outbreaks by the Premier of Victoria and the State's appreciation for the support provided by the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions.
5. Agreed that for future localised outbreaks Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC) advice on jurisdictional needs be immediately communicated by the CMO to the Prime Minister and relevant First Minister to enable rapid support arrangements to be put in place.
6. Noted the AHPPC statement on hotel quarantine which reconfirmed the need for all incoming travellers to undertake 14 days' quarantine in a hotel and recommended adoption of a consistent national testing strategy for people in hotel quarantine.
7. Noted the AHPPC statement on the review of physical distancing and person density restrictions and agreed, based on that advice, that under Step 3 States and Territories can allow small premises to apply a one person per 2 square metre rule with a COVID-Safe plan in place.
8. Noted the National Cabinet Submission titled Australia's Public Health Capacity and COVID-19 and agreed:
  - (a) all States and Territories strengthen a formal surge plan for the public health response workforce and review the structure of public health units to determine whether they meet contemporary needs
  - (b) the Commonwealth will progress the national interoperable notifiable disease surveillance system (NINDSS) project and all States and Territories will prioritise the use of interfaces with the NINDSS to help with the rapid sharing of information between jurisdictions
  - (c) to establish a national training program for surge workforce (built on existing training programs)
  - (d) Departments of Health agree a model and shared costs to better support the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) over the longer term
  - (e) the National Medical Workforce Strategy Project (being led by the National Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee) be asked to consider the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine workforce report and prioritise action to enhance public health physician workforce capacity, including recruitment, retention and training, particularly in communicable diseases

- (f) the AHPPC be asked to consider options for developing a formal public health workforce training program, including a national public health officer and nursing training program
  - (g) that Health Ministers further consider how each of the actions in paragraph 8(a) to (f) above can be implemented in each jurisdiction.
9. Noted:
- (a) the Pandemic Health Intelligence Plan Report – Issue 3 (PHIP Report – Issue 3), including the shift in epidemiological thresholds for incidence of COVID-19, community transmission and outbreak reporting, driven by the current activity in Victoria
  - (b) the updated modelling figures presented in Appendix One to the PHIP Report – Issue 3
  - (c) the updated status of precedent conditions which support planned easing of restrictions.
10. Agreed to the publication of the summary documents for the PHIP Report – Issue 3 and precedent conditions.
11. Agreed the AHPPC will provide advice to National Cabinet on a pathway to reopening the live entertainment sector.
12. Noted the oral update by the Prime Minister on the return of international students and other cohorts, including further preconditions for the commencement of international student pilots, as follows:
- (a) pilots must aim to involve students from a diversity of source countries and use commercial flights if feasible or Commonwealth approved charter flights from a regional hub (initially Singapore or Kuala Lumpur)
  - (b) pilots must initially be limited to continuing international students
  - (c) all costs associated with travel and quarantine must be borne by the beneficiaries (jurisdictions, institutions or students)
  - (d) international students must be responsible for funding their stay in Australia and will not be eligible for Commonwealth financial support
  - (e) jurisdictions must manage a 14-day quarantine on arrival.
13. Noted the AHPPC advice on the preconditions for the relaxation of international border restrictions.

14. Noted the oral update by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury, Dr Steven Kennedy, on the global and national economic outlook, labour market and loan deferrals.

15. Agreed that, with all jurisdictions now developing their Budgets, Heads of Treasuries share information and coordination of fiscal response options to assist States and Territories in aligning measures with and complementing the Commonwealth's measures.

16. Noted:

- (a) Commonwealth deliberations are continuing on the future of the temporary support measures
- (b) the Prime Minister is seeking the support of Premiers and Chief Ministers for an extension of current temporary flexible industrial relations arrangements to avoid further exacerbating the unemployment risks for part-time employees (in particular young people and women).

17. Agreed:

- (a) the Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, the Hon Ben Morton MP, would consult with individual jurisdictions on home building approval processes to support timely implementation of the HomeBuilder program
- (b) to discuss infrastructure approval process reforms at its next meeting.

18. Noted the Commonwealth's appointment of the former Director-General of the Western Australia Department of Premier and Cabinet and former Commonwealth Cabinet Secretary, Mr Peter Conran AM, to lead the National Cabinet Review of COAG Council and Ministerial Forums (the Review), with a view to rationalising them as previously agreed.

19. Agreed the proposed Terms of Reference for the Review, with recommendations to be provided to National Cabinet by September 2020.

20. Noted the update by the Director-General of the Australian Signals Directorate, Ms Rachel Noble, on cyber security and agreed on the importance of all jurisdictions lifting their cyber security capabilities.

21. Noted:

- (a) the Domestic Passenger Journey Protocol
- (b) the AHPPC statement on risk management for boarding schools and school-based residential colleges
- (c) the AHPPC update to residential aged care facilities about minimising the impact of COVID-19
- (d) the AHPPC statement on preliminary media reports of the results of a randomised trial of the use of dexamethasone
- (e) the AHPPC statement on recent outbreaks of COVID-19 in Victoria
- (f) the AHPPC statement on the safe return of crowds to stadiums, arenas and large theatres
- (g) the Australian Federal Police's update on national law and order trends during the pandemic.

22. Agreed its next meeting will be on 10 July 2020.

*Original authorised by*  
Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

SM20/0266/NATCAB/19

10 July 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0266</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted:
  - (a) the oral updates on the Victorian COVID-19 outbreak and the health response under way by the Victorian Premier and the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
  - (b) the Victorian Premier's appreciation of the assistance provided by other jurisdictions and their continued commitment to providing as much support as necessary.
2. Noted the proposed Victorian approach to the wearing of masks was consistent with the most recent Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice on masks.
3. Noted community attitudes towards social distancing had relaxed in some jurisdictions and agreed the need for continued public messaging on the importance of social distancing in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
4. Noted the oral update by the Acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO) on the:
  - (a) latest epidemiological data and modelling
  - (b) key differences in terms of source and demographics between the current outbreak and the earlier national spike in case numbers

- (c) status of measures in the Pandemic Health Intelligence Plan (including the increasing number of measures no longer within the threshold)
  - (d) status of precedent conditions.
5. Agreed to the publication of:
- (a) the update on precedent conditions
  - (b) updated measures, metrics and thresholds in the PHIP Report – Issue 4.
6. Agreed:
- (a) to reduce the number of incoming international passengers by around half between 12 July and 8 August 2020 and potentially beyond
  - (b) a national approach to the management of incoming international passengers (based on jurisdictional quarantine capability and number of incoming passengers) be introduced between 12 July 2020 and 8 August 2020 and potentially beyond
  - (c) Australian citizens and permanent residents will continue to be the passenger cohorts that are prioritised for returning to Australia
  - (d) the following passenger caps be put in place:
    - (i) Melbourne airport – continued suspension of inbound passenger arrivals until further notice
    - (ii) Brisbane airport – introduce a cap of 500 arrivals per week (with a cap of 30 passengers per flight with some flexibility) until at least 8 August 2020
    - (iii) Perth airport – introduce a cap of 75 arrivals per day (with a cap of 50 passengers per flight with some flexibility) until at least 8 August 2020with caps also to be agreed between the Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth') and the relevant States and Territories for Sydney, Adelaide, Canberra and Darwin airports.
  - (e) any incoming passenger cap requests must seek to maximise use of existing quarantine capacity and be based on accurate and transparent capacity and capability data and information



- (f) to work towards a consistent model of charging for hotel quarantine, noting that more jurisdictions intended to introduce recovery of quarantine costs
  - (g) the movement of critical international air freight must continue during this period.
7. Agreed:
- (a) the AHPPC's Advice of 10 July 2020 on 'Nationwide Review of Hotel Quarantining Arrangements'
  - (b) to a national review of hotel quarantine arrangements, led by Ms Jane Halton AO PSM, informed by the AHPPC requirements for the review and to be completed by the end of July 2020 for future National Cabinet consideration.
8. Noted the draft papers on:
- (a) AHPPC Advice on Localised Outbreaks – Thresholds for Movement Restrictions
  - (b) Domestic Border Controls – Protocols for Closure
  - (c) Domestic Border Controls – Freight Movements.
9. Agreed to:
- (a) task the AHPPC with finalising its advice on localised outbreaks, for future National Cabinet consideration
  - (b) task the National Coordination Mechanism with further developing its draft protocol for border closures to include practical details on implementation, resourcing and timeframes for establishment of containment rings, for future National Cabinet consideration
  - (c) task Transport Ministers to consider the draft freight movement protocol and return to National Cabinet with recommendations that support minimal disruption to freight movements across borders, including options for a national permit system
  - (d) the Commonwealth returning to the next National Cabinet meeting with a paper on the potential use of the Biosecurity Act 2015 for responding to localised outbreaks, taking into account its prior use with respect to indigenous communities



- (e) the Commonwealth returning to National Cabinet with a proposed Australian Safe Travel Zone proposal that could incorporate the future Trans-Tasman COVID Safe Travel Zone and future international student travel as well as explore the potential for limited international business travel between Australia and other countries where health conditions could allow pre-clearances and agreed travel protocols.
10. Noted the importance of a reformed Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector in supporting Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19, including by reskilling and upskilling out-of-work Australians.
11. Noted the Commonwealth's proposed Draft Heads of Agreement for Skills Reform, which would commit all governments to:
- (a) immediate reforms to improve the quality and relevance of the VET sector
  - (b) an approach and priorities for developing a new National Skills Agreement to replace the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development.
12. Noted:
- (a) jurisdictions that sign the Heads of Agreement would have the opportunity to partner with the Commonwealth in a JobTrainer Fund
  - (b) the Fund would deliver free or low-fee training places for job seekers and young people in areas of identified skills need based on a list of qualifications and short courses agreed with the National Skills Commissioner
  - (c) the Commonwealth's proposal to contribute up to \$500 million to the Fund in 2020-21, contingent on matched funding from those States and Territories wishing to partner
  - (d) the Fund would be administered through a new National Partnership Agreement, to be finalised by August 2020 by the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) in consultation with the new National Cabinet Reform Committee on Skills.
13. Agreed to progress the Heads of Agreement through bilateral discussions between the Commonwealth and individual jurisdictions.

14. Noted the presentation by the Chair of the Productivity Commission, Mr Michael Brennan, on priority areas to contribute to the National Deregulation Agenda.

15. Agreed to task Treasurers, through CFFR, to consider the regulatory reform proposals from the Productivity Commission and return with advice on suggested priorities, including detailed proposals, with the first priority being to provide options for extending, either temporarily or permanently, the changes to time-based restrictions currently in place to support the COVID response.

16. Noted:

- (a) the Updated Management and Operational Plan for People With Disability
- (b) the AHPPC Statement on management of health risks related to COVID-19.

17. Noted:

- (a) the oral update by the Prime Minister on the 9 July 2020 announcement on new special visa arrangements for Hong Kong residents already in Australia
- (b) the request to the States and Territories to partner with the Commonwealth in developing approaches to encourage footloose businesses and talented individuals from Hong Kong and other countries to relocate to Australia
- (c) the Commonwealth will organise a briefing for First Ministers by relevant agencies on issues relating to Australia's relationship with China.

18. Agreed its next meeting will be on 24 July 2020.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

iSM20/0782/NATCAB

10 July 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Other</b>	<b>SM20/0782</b>	<b>PROFESSOR BRENDAN MURPHY</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Acknowledged and thanked Professor Brendan Murphy for his service to the National Cabinet during the COVID-19 pandemic and wished him well in his new role.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

SM20/0802/NATCAB

24 July 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0802</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted:
  - (a) the oral update by the Acting Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
  - (b) the Paper titled National Cabinet Update as amended by the CMO with the removal of the final dot point in the Victorian section referring to case follow-up timeframes
  - (c) the Pandemic Health Intelligence Plan (PHIP) thresholds
  - (d) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice on the status of precedent conditions.
2. Noted:
  - (a) the oral update by the Premier of Victoria on the response to recent coronavirus outbreaks
  - (b) the oral update by the Premier of New South Wales on the response to recent coronavirus outbreaks
  - (c) oral updates by other Premiers and Chief Ministers.

3. Agreed:
  - (a) the AHPPC paper titled COVID-19 Strategic Direction, recommitting to the suppression strategy with a goal of no community transmission
  - (b) to consider in August an updated national health plan which emphasises the importance of integrated health and emergency services responses
  - (c) to adopt new metrics on the operational capacity of the public health system proposed by the AHPPC for inclusion in the PHIP
  - (d) jurisdictions will provide new and existing metrics to inform a daily National Dashboard to provide National Cabinet with enhanced situational awareness to inform the early initiation of operational responses.
4. Endorsed the AHPPC paper titled Community Actions at Step 3 and Beyond the 3-Step Framework with a change to the first sentence of 'will be required' to 'may be required'.
5. Noted the status of restrictions in jurisdictions.
6. Agreed to task the AHPPC with providing advice to National Cabinet on a set of restrictions that could apply after the conclusion of the 3-Step Plan incorporating the lessons from localised outbreaks.
7. Noted the CMO will return to National Cabinet in late August with a further update on easing restrictions, including advice on the non-health related impacts and an overview of other countries' experiences.
8. Noted:
  - (a) the AHPPC statement on recommendations for the resumption of community sport
  - (b) the PHIP Report – Issue 5.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

SM20/0790/NATCAB

24 July 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0790</b>	<b>DOMESTIC BORDER CLOSURES</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted progress on the development of a Domestic Border Closure Protocol by the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) in consultation with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).
2. Agreed the Domestic Border Closure Protocol will be considered at a future National Cabinet meeting.
3. Agreed:
  - (a) to adopt the draft Freight Movement Protocol ('the Protocol')
  - (b) to task Transport Ministers with the development of a binding Freight Movement Code ('the Code') with relevant compliance measures
  - (c) enforcement measures for the Protocol and the Code are the remit of each State and Territory
  - (d) the Commonwealth Government will engage the freight industry on the Code

- (e) the Code will be settled by correspondence out of session or at the next National Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian Government

SM20/0798/NATCAB

24 July 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0798</b>	<b>ECONOMIC ISSUES</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted:

- (a) the oral update by the Secretary of the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury on the current economic outlook and labour market challenges as outlined in the July Economic Statement
- (b) progress on skills, with seven States and Territories indicating they will sign the Heads of Agreement for Skills Reform
- (c) the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) is making good progress on mutual recognition of occupational licensing
- (d) CFFR's work on tax reform, which will be discussed by National Cabinet when consensus is achieved on a substantial proposal
- (e) the Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth') is establishing an inter-agency taskforce to attract footloose businesses to Australia, working closely with States and Territories
- (f) the positive initial response to the Commonwealth's expanded Location Incentive Program for the film and television sector.

Cabinet Secretary





Australian Government

SM20/0801/NATCAB

24 July 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0801</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the oral update by the Prime Minister on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).
2. Agreed in principle to adopt reforms to the EPBC Act approval process to move towards a single-touch approach, with the Commonwealth Government to enter into bilateral approval agreements with States and Territories.
3. Noted the 15 major projects which will be fast-tracked under bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth Government and States and Territories.
4. Noted national standards for environmental approvals will be developed simultaneously through further public consultation.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory  
Governments

SM20/0850/NATCAB  
7 August 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Oral Update</b>	<b>SM20/0850</b>	<b>CORONAVIRUS UPDATE</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Noted the:
  - (a) oral update by the acting Chief Medical Officer
  - (b) paper titled National Cabinet Update
  - (c) Pandemic Health Intelligence Plan (PHIP) thresholds
  - (d) Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) expression of support for additional measures to improve the current state of the COVID-19 outbreak in Victoria.
2. Noted the oral update by the Premier of Victoria on the response to recent coronavirus outbreaks.
3. Considered the paper titled Caps on International Air Passenger Arrivals.
4. Agreed:
  - (a) there is a need to extend the current limits on the weekly inflow of international passengers based on the continuation of limited State and Territory quarantine capacity and the effectiveness of incoming passenger arrival caps ('passenger caps') in reducing pressures on the systems
  - (b) jurisdictions will work with the Commonwealth to increase passenger caps if the domestic COVID-19 situation improves before 24 October 2020, noting Victoria has requested no international passenger arrivals until further notice
  - (c) the Commonwealth will work with jurisdictions to support economic recovery and open up pathways for international students, Seasonal

Worker Programme and Pacific Labour Scheme workers and other important cohorts through managing arrangements for entry of these cohorts and removing passenger caps as soon as possible

- (d) to continue to exchange information, including on quarantine capacity and incoming passenger and flight movements, to support the Commonwealth's implementation of passenger caps.
5. Noted the:
- (a) short-term extension of existing passenger caps from 8 August 2020 to 15 August 2020 to give airlines sufficient time to perform operational planning before the measures at paragraph 4 above are implemented
  - (b) Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth') will extend current passenger caps until 24 October 2020, informed by the States' and Territories' advice on available quarantine capacity.
6. Noted:
- (a) the oral update by Ms Jane Halton AO PSM on the National Review of Quarantine Arrangements
  - (b) the Interim Report of the National Review of Hotel Quarantine.
7. Considered the paper titled Aged Care.
8. Agreed to develop national principles and State and Territory plans by the next meeting of National Cabinet for rapid responses to any further outbreaks, informed by an audit of current preparedness in all States and Territories, including:
- (a) implementing Personal Protective Equipment requirements for all staff and visitors at aged care facilities in locations where there has been a COVID-19 outbreak
  - (b) additional face-to-face training on infection control
  - (c) prioritising contact tracing staff in aged care services
  - (d) alternative workforce arrangements for aged care services with furloughed staff
  - (e) measures to fund the workforce while aged care staff are in forced isolation owing to infection or awaiting test results
  - (f) capacity to use public and private hospitals

- (g) hotel quarantine arrangements
  - (h) integration of public health and aged care responses.
9. Noted the paper titled Australia's COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy.

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory  
Governments

SM20/0842/NATCAB  
7 August 2020

## CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET

<b>Paper</b>	<b>SM20/0842</b>	<b>DOMESTIC BORDER CONTROLS</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Agreed:
  - (a) the Freight Movement Code for the Domestic Border Controls – Freight Movement Protocol ('the Code')
  - (b) States and Territories will implement the Code no earlier than five and no later than ten business days from 7 August 2020, noting the importance of nationally consistent implementation of the Code.
2. Noted the oral updates by the Premier of Queensland on:
  - (a) identification documentation requirements for domestic flights
  - (b) the Papua New Guinea (PNG)-Australia border.
3. Noted:
  - (a) the Commonwealth would further consider identification documentation requirements for domestic flights
  - (b) the Prime Minister's oral update on his recent virtual summit with his PNG counterpart, Australia's provision of additional COVID support to PNG and the deployment of additional Australian Border Force resources to the Torres Strait.

*Original authorised by*

Cabinet Secretary



Australian, State and Territory  
Governments

SM20/0856/NATCAB  
07 August 2020

## **CABINET MINUTE NATIONAL CABINET**

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<b>Other</b>	<b>SM20/0856</b>	<b>ECONOMIC ISSUES</b>
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The National Cabinet:

1. Considered the Council on Federal Financial Relations (CFFR) paper titled Economic Issues.
2. Agreed the CFFR recommendations:
  - (a) that the principle that a person who is registered or licensed to work in an occupation in one jurisdiction should be entitled to be registered or licensed to carry on work in an equivalent occupation in other jurisdictions where the occupation is regulated, whether on a temporary or ongoing basis
  - (b) that CFFR will prioritise and lead implementation of a uniform scheme to support widespread occupational mobility, in consultation with relevant Commonwealth Government ('the Commonwealth'), State and Territory Ministers, to take effect from 1 January 2021, subject to the passage of legislation
  - (c) to announce the introduction of a uniform scheme for automatic recognition of licensed occupations with the timing to be determined by each jurisdiction and the ambition to take effect from 1 January 2021 noting that jurisdictions will report back to the CFFR on implementation

- (d) that the Commonwealth Deregulation Taskforce and CFFR give effect to this by:
    - (i) providing advice on how best to implement automatic recognition of licensed occupations, including standard setting and monitoring and model legislation to be adopted
    - (ii) ensuring consumer safety and workplace safety are recognised as core principles to drive scheme design and durability
    - (iii) rescinding the system of Ministerial Declarations regarding equivalent occupations under the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992 (Cwth)* where those determinations affect more than two jurisdictions and hinder the effective operation of the mutual recognition
    - (iv) State and Territory governments reviewing their occupational licensing and registration requirements to determine core requirements to be established to provide a net benefit to consumers and businesses
    - (v) reviewing information available for workers and businesses on mutual recognition to advise on how the collation and use of information will be improved and shared among regulators to streamline the implementation of a system of automatic mutual recognition licensing that can be sustained and standards continuously improved
    - (vi) providing advice on any mechanisms that should be put in place to ensure these arrangements are enduring
  - (e) that CFFR report back to the National Cabinet in October 2020 on the progress delivering a uniform scheme for automatic recognition of licensed occupations to take effect on 1 January 2021.
3. Considered the CFFR paper titled Council on Federal Financial Relations Interim Report - Review to Rationalise and Streamline Existing Funding Agreements ('the Interim Report').
4. Agreed to a three-stage plan for the rationalisation of Commonwealth-State and Territory project agreements, comprising:
- (a) Stage One - consolidating all existing project agreements into new five sectoral national partnership agreements (Attachment A1 to the Interim Report refers)

- (b) Stage Two - establishing a process for CFFR as the gatekeeper for new agreements
- (c) Stage Three - developing a streamlined system for all future funding agreements to manage the proliferation of agreements

with Stages Two and Three to be detailed in the final report provided to the National Cabinet at the end of August 2020.

5. Noted the presentation by the National Skills Commissioner titled National Skills Reform Agenda.

6. Agreed the terms of reference for the Skills National Cabinet Reform Committee (Attachment A1 to the presentation refers).

*Original authorised by*

Cabinet Secretary