

Factsheet: Resources Sector Interstate Arrivals to WA

Background

CME is working with Government to support the safety and health of the resources sector workforce, ensure that the resources sector does not impact the regions and communities it operates, and maintain operations and production wherever possible.

A [State of Emergency](#) has been declared in Western Australia under the Emergency Management Act. Under the State of Emergency declaration, a Direction and was enforced from 1:30pm on Tuesday 24 March 2020, that will restrict Western Australian borders in the interests of limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

The Direction impacts travellers by road, sea, air and rail. You can access the full Direction [here](#).

Border restrictions and requirements are also in place in other Australia jurisdictions. You will need to refer to the official websites in each jurisdiction for further information. These can all be accessed [here](#).

CME understands additional WA border restrictions are currently under consideration by the WA Government including consideration of a “hard border” in WA which would further restrict travel into WA. An industry-led ban on FIFO travel from NSW has also been implemented from midnight Monday, 30 March. These measures are currently being worked through and if and when they come into force, this will be formalised through further amendments to the [State of Emergency declaration](#).

However, CME is strongly urging our member companies to plan for this eventuality by:

- Offering temporary relocation to WA to employees who are located outside of WA
- Further limiting FIFO movements to critical staff and through roster adjustments
- Where travel is essential, moving to dedicated charter flights to maintain separation (from the general public) from point of origin through to destination (site or workplace).
- Nominating critical roles for the business and providing written confirmation of this on company letter head to travelling employees (outlined further below).

The situation is changing daily and CME is working hard to ensure resource sector exemptions continue. However, due to the rapidly changing nature of State and Federal Government’s response to COVID we are not able to provide advise specific to individual cases. The WA Police (WAPOL) are responsible for regulating the arrivals process, and CME is liaising daily with WAPOL to better understand requirements and work through any issues identified.

CME will continue to post updated information on our [website](#) when it is publicly available.

Essential industry exemption

The s.67 [Direction](#) issued by the WA Emergency Commissioner broadly defines exemptions for “specialist” and “essential” workers required for industry continuity and maintenance of operations, including FIFO personnel who regularly travel interstate for work purposes.

There is currently no specified list of “approved” essential roles, and it is the responsibility of companies to determine those workers that are required to travel to site from interstate and would therefore qualify for the above resource sector exemption.

Guidelines for *inter state* travel

All personnel arriving from interstate are required to complete an [Arrivals Form](#). WA Police are on the ground at the airport overseeing this declaration process.

Personnel need to identify as an 'Essential Worker' by ticking the 'Specialist Skills' box on the Arrivals Form. Failing to nominate as exempt will result in WA self-quarantine requirements applying on arrival to WA.

Personnel should carry ID (identifying their role and employing company) and a confirmation of employment and travel requirements on the head company (site) letterhead to assist with this process.

Essential Traveller status

This section of the form is only required to be completed by those people who have Essential Traveller status.

Please tick a box if you meet the criteria of 'Essential Traveller'. See end page for full definitions.

National and State Security and Governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transport, Freight and Logistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Specialist Skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Service Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	Special Exemptions	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please provide a short justification for why you meet the above criteria: _____

If you do not meet any of the criteria for Essential Traveller, you must isolate for 14 days.
You can apply for Special Exemption status from the Responsible Officer who hands you this form.

Specialist Skills are defined as critical to maintaining key industries or businesses, for example

- any specialists required for industry or business continuity and maintenance of competitive operations where the appropriate skills are not available in Western Australia, where the service is time-critical and where the provision of the service requires the person to be physically present in Western Australia; or
- any person who, in the course of his or her duties is responsible while in Western Australia for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to Western Australia.

Personnel are reminded of their individual obligation to take all reasonable steps to avoid coming within 1.5 metres of another person at any time (including while transiting through the airport).

Personnel are also requested to avoid unnecessary use of PPE while transiting. It has been well publicised that there is currently a critical shortage of certain public health supplies. These are unusual times and it is important as a sector we consider the implications on broader public health when implementing risk mitigation measures.

Any questions about the above requirements can be directed to: socc.covid19smail@police.wa.gov.au

Guidelines for *intra* state travel

The WA Government will implement intra state (regional) border restrictions from midnight Tuesday 31 March 2020.

There will be an interim implementation process for exempted essential services while the longer term process is embedded. It is anticipated that this longer term process may at least a week to implement.

In the interim, the following should be applied for the mining and oil and gas sectors in WA for essential services:

Individuals deemed as essential to have on their person at the time of the regional border crossing:

- A company-issued letter confirming their details, they are essential, the regions they must travel from / to and if applicable, regions for transit only and a company contact phone number that will be answered if WA Police contact the company from the Check Point to clarify any details
 - Note: it is advisable to keep the template letter as simple as possible to assist WA Police in process these checks as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- A health declaration (self-declaring no overseas travel in last 14 days; no related symptoms; no known contact with positive COVID-19 case; etc)
- Individual photo ID (eg: Driver's Licence or employee ID); and
- Be in work uniform.

The regional borders are shown in this [map](#).

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Company support

Companies need to be proactive in supporting resources sector personnel arriving from interstate. Best practice measures include:

- Companies having representatives present at the airport and/or key regional borders to assist with clearing personnel on arrival.
- Companies communicating with their travelling workers the requirement to:
 - Carry a company-issued letter confirming their details, essential purpose and travel itinerary.
 - Carry appropriate ID (eg Driver's Licence or employee ID).
 - Carry a health self-declaration form
 - *[For interstate travel:]* Complete an Arrivals Form and provide it to a Responsible Officer at the point of disembarkation.
 - Preferably travel in work uniform.
 - Reminding personnel to undertake all reasonable steps to avoid coming within 1.5 metres of another person at any time (including while transiting through the airport).
- As a last resort, personnel must have access to a company 'hotline' number who can assist with verifying their status and travel movements.