

VACC advice for members working for the continued operation of farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture

The [Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions \(No 29\)](#) came into force at 11:59pm 26 August 2021 and end at 11:59pm on 23 September 2021.

Section 4 (1) (f-h) announce restrictions on persons entering Victoria unless those persons have a specified worker permit.

A specified worker in support of agriculture industries and the restrictions list

The latest [Restrictions List^{\[1\]}](#) from the Victorian Government announces that businesses working in the vehicle repair or maintenance are authorised providers and qualify as authorised workers.

The same restrictions list allows for any person who performs work that is essential for the continued operation of farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, irrigation, permaculture, apiculture, grains, fibre production, dairy, flower industry, commercial fishing, aquaculture and livestock.

VACC Advice:

Ensure those staff that can work from home continue to do so, and those who are on-site working from your location have a current authorised worker permit and carry it with them at all times, including when travelling to and from work.

Permitted reasons for travel

As New South Wales is classified as an extreme risk zone, residents in the Victoria-NSW border bubble can only obtain a cross border community – [Extreme Risk Zone Permit](#) to enter (or return home to) Victoria if they are travelling for one of the following permitted reasons:

- Necessary goods and services, including medical care and getting a COVID-19 test
- Care and compassionate reasons
- [Authorised work](#) or permitted education (including permitted childcare and early childhood services)
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccination
- Visiting an intimate partner
- Moving house
- Driving someone who cannot drive themselves for one of the above reasons
- Travelling between places in Victoria where it is easier to travel through NSW

People crossing the border to enter Victoria for one of the permitted reasons must also not travel further than reasonably necessary to undertake essential activities.

Cross border residents

The [Victorian Government](#) webpage advises that Victorian Residents of the cross-border community area (known as the NSW-Victoria border bubble), who are 18 years and over, intending to enter Victoria, must now obtain a Cross border community – [Extreme Risk Zone Permit](#).

Permits are valid for 14 days from the date you first entered Victoria (unless revoked earlier).

If you enter without a valid permit, exemption or you are not an excepted person, you can be subject to a fine of up to \$5,452.

Important notice

In addition, please note that from 11.59pm Thursday 2 September, six local Victorian areas including Greater Shepparton, Greater Bendigo, City of Benalla, Buloke, Loddon, Yarrambiak and two NSW LGAs – Broken Hill and Edward River – will no longer be included as a cross border community. This mean residents in those LGAs will no longer be eligible for a Cross Border Extreme Risk Zone Permit to enter Victoria or return from NSW.

For those living in these regions you will need to provide a Specified Worker Permit to nominated employees and meet all the conditions of that permit. Take [this link](#) to find more information on Specified Worker Permits.

Cross border employees

- If you are an Authorised worker and your workplace is in a cross-border community area you can go to work.
- Your interstate employer can sign your permit to attest that under Victorian rules you are an Authorised Worker and permitted to leave home to go to work.

Can agriculture workers who perform work that is essential for the continued operation of farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture come to your business?

A resident of a cross-border community area that is an extreme risk zone (for e.g., NSW) who wishes to purchase necessary goods and services are permitted to cross the border into Victoria for necessary goods and services.

Necessary goods and services refer to non-discretionary goods and services that cannot practically be obtained from the side of the border community you live. This includes:

- obtaining medical care (including emergency medical care and medical care requiring continuity of treatment)
- medical and pharmaceutical products, mobility devices, disability and health equipment
- items or services for the continuing operation of a business e.g., fuel, parts and other supplies
- shopping for necessities such as food and essential clothing
- spare parts for essential repairs or maintenance
- vehicle and mechanical repair services
- accessing a post office, bank or government body or agency
- goods or services for animal health, husbandry or welfare.

VACC advice:

Agriculture businesses that perform work that is essential for the continued operation of farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture should do the following :

- Parts sales and supplies should be done on a contactless click and collect basis.
- Sale of new and used machinery should be done on a contactless click and collect basis.
- Ensure continuing compliance with all applicable requirements relating to current Directions – e.g., authorised work permits, face masks, density quotients, record-keeping and COVIDSafe plan.

Can agriculture workers who perform work that is essential for the continued operation of farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture work on site?

Agriculture businesses that do external work (e.g., on a farm) should ensure their continuing compliance with all applicable requirements relating to current Directions – e.g., authorised work permits, face masks, density quotients, record-keeping and COVIDSafe plan.

In addition, individuals must obtain a cross border community – [Extreme Risk Zone Permit](#) if crossing the Vic-NSW border.

VACC advice:

All border bubble residents will now need a permit to cross the border. This is taken to mean that it is permissible for you to cross the border to conduct work that is essential to provide the continued operation of farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture. However, you must ensure you are continuing to comply with all applicable COVIDSafe requirements.

Have the correct documentation, including sales order, available for inspection if required.

How the South Australia-Victoria border bubble works

If you live in a local government area in the South Australia-Victoria cross-border area, you can enter (or return home to) Victoria without a permit, provided:

- you have not been in an extreme risk zone or red zone outside of the cross-border area at any time since it came into effect over the last 14 days
- if you have been in an orange zone outside of the cross-border area at any time since it came into effect over the last 14 days, you have been tested for COVID-19 and received a negative result since leaving the orange zone
- you have not been to an exposure site
- you don't have COVID-19 or have any symptoms, and you are not a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case
- you carry proof of address (such as a driver licence).

Victoria is currently in lockdown, and people travelling within the South Australia-Victoria border bubble must comply with all Directions currently in place in Victoria.

This means you cannot travel in Victoria other than for one of the following reasons:

- shopping for necessary goods and services
- caregiving or compassionate reasons, including medical care or to get a COVID-19 test
- [authorised work](#) or permitted education (including childcare and early childhood services)
- exercise (up to 2 hours per day)
- to get a COVID-19 vaccination

Please continue to visit VACC www.vacc.com.au for any updates.

[1] *State-wide restrictions from 1.00pm Saturday 21 August 2021* pp 5.