



# MEDIA RELEASE

12 January 2022

## **National Cabinet must relax isolation rules to keep vital businesses open**

The Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is calling on National Cabinet to relax COVID-related isolation rules or risk crippling the Tasmanian economy.

TCCI CEO Michael Bailey said that a number of sectors were at risk of shutting down because of isolation rules.

“It doesn't make sense for people to be forced to isolate when they don't have COVID,” Mr Bailey said.

“Unfortunately, that's the rule in place at the moment and it has to change. We've seen National Cabinet relax that rule for some industries, such as transport, but given how integrated our economy is you can't pick and choose which industries that should apply to.

“For example, transport and logistics workers don't have to isolate if they are a close contact unless they have COVID and can continue to keep vital goods moving around the country. That makes sense. But while that helps keep our warehouses working, shops are empty because the same exemption doesn't apply to the retail workers who stack the shelves.

“At the very least, National Cabinet needs to significantly increase the number of employees who are exempt from isolating if they're not COVID positive. Ultimately, we would like to see only those with COVID required to isolate and more flexible rules for close contacts who have tested negative.

**Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

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“If we don't make these changes, and soon, then there are going to be serious consequences for the community and for the economy.

“It's worth pointing out that nearly a month after our borders reopened, the hospitalisation rate for COVID in Tasmania is still very small, relaxing isolation rules won't affect that and the Government needs to do everything it can now to support the community, workers and businesses.”

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