



**Media Release: 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

## **Building and Construction Industry Employers and Unions Unite on COVID-19 Safety Message**

The Air Conditioning & Mechanical Contractors' Association (AMCA), Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU), Civil Contractors Federation (CCF), Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), Electrical Trades Union (ETU), Master Builders Victoria (MBV), Master Plumbers, National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA), Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union (PPTEU), Property Council Victoria and the Urban Development Institute of Australia [Victoria] (UDIA) have united to send a strong message to the building and construction industry: Treat this situation very seriously and with the highest importance by adhering to all the recommended safety procedures.

The united group stress the need to follow appropriate measures and guidelines which stipulate strict hygiene practices, social distancing and separation of workers on meal breaks, in addition to other measures, to ensure sites can be kept safe and stay open.

Employer groups and unions have worked together to develop guidelines in line with government recommendations and they should be adhered to immediately and followed dutifully by all employers and employees.

The united group has and will continue to follow guidelines from both the National Cabinet and Victorian State Government, which confirms that stage two restrictions do not apply to construction sites and electrical and plumbing services - as these are considered essential activities.

As vital constituents of the economy, it is critical that all stakeholders of the building and construction industry work together to ensure the protection of employers, workers, their families and our community.

The group will continue to work with all relevant leadership and government bodies – including following the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer - to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their collective memberships and the community.

MBA: <https://www.mbav.com.au/news-information/news/ohs/workplace-hygiene-and-social-distancing-requirements-covid-19?ohs>

CFMEU VIC/TAS: <https://cfmeu-news.com.au/covid-19-information/>

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