



**Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business
Senator for Western Australia**

24 July 2020

WEEKLY WRAP

The National Cabinet met today to discuss Australia's COVID-19 response, the outbreak in Victoria, easing of restrictions, helping Australians prepare to go back to work in a COVID-safe environment and getting the economy moving again.

National Cabinet agreed to a new set of data and metrics to ensure that the Commonwealth, states and territories all have access to transparent up-to-date jurisdictional data on contact tracing, tracking and other metrics to ensure health system capacity. This will better help guide the public health response and support the coordination of efforts by the Commonwealth, States and Territories.

STREAMLINING ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS FOR JOB-CREATING PROJECTS

National Cabinet endorsed the list of 15 major projects for which Commonwealth **environmental approvals will be fast-tracked**. For major projects at the start of the approvals process, the Government will target a 50 per cent reduction in Commonwealth assessment and approval times for major projects, from an average of 3.5 years to 21 months. For major projects which are already at an advanced stage of assessment, governments will seek to progress them through the process as fast as possible and within statutory timeframes.

Joint assessment teams will work on accelerating these projects, which are worth more than \$72 billion in public and private investment and will support over 66,000 direct and indirect jobs.

This is a part of our economic plan to help build Australia's economy after the impact COVID-19 has had on the Australian economy.

TRANSPORT

National Cabinet considered and agreed a **Domestic Border Control Freight Movement Protocol** to allow freight to move safely and efficiently across borders, and to upgrade the Protocol to an Enforceable Code by State and Territory jurisdictions.

The Protocol was developed between all jurisdictions with the involvement of members of the Transport and Infrastructure Council and had previously been endorsed by the Australian Health Principal Protection Committee.

National Cabinet also agreed that further work be carried out by jurisdictions on the implementation and enforcement of an industry code which, in-conjunction with the Protocol, will minimise risks and exposure to workers and the community from COVID-19.

TREASURER PRESS CLUB SPEECH

Today, the Treasurer addressed the National Press Club on the health and economic perspective and outlined the scale of the challenge the Morrison Government faces, and the uncertainty COVID-19 has had in Australia. The Treasurer detailed the steps we as a Government have taken to help support Australians through the crisis and outlined our plan forward post COVID-19.

The Treasurer spoke about the heavy burden that COVID-19 has put on the Australian economy and the Australian people and the significant budgetary impacts it has had for the Government, with net debt expected to reach \$677.1 billion at 30 June 2021. The Treasurer outlined the importance of charting our way out of this crisis and the need for collaboration across Australia, across government and across industry to ensure that post COVID-19 that we can create stronger growth and bring Australia back to prosperity.

To read the Treasurer's speech in full, click [here](#).

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michaelia Cash', written in a cursive style.

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