

## BRIEFING NOTE

**To:** The Hon Nola Marino MP and DITRDC  
**From:** RDA Murray NSW  
**Submitted by:** Edwina Hayes – Director Regional Development and CEO, RDA Murray  
**Information Source:** RDA Murray and Murray Socio-Economic Activation Taskforce (MSEAT)  
**Date:** Wednesday 19 August 2020

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Murray NSW-VIC Border Closure practical support and connection to NSW Gov primary workload with public communication and presenting advice to government Local Councils. State and Federal.

RDA Murray facilitated collaborative Joint Statement of Border Closure Impacts and Recommendations released Friday 15 August

<https://www.rdamurray.org.au/index.php/news/media-releases/local-leaders-join-forces-to-call-for-regional-input-into-supporting-the-border-closure/>

Was picked up immediately and informed Senate COVID Committee and Treasury

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=724284934787252&extid=VzqxeULK4yhe2STj>

This week's additional Border Closure advice is

1. We need to get people to work in a safe system (*NSW Gov could make health triggers/parameters clear and communicate with community for work arounds and solutions to balance health risks and economic impact*)
  - a. Recommend to NSW Gov to include additional postcodes in Critical Services Permit category
  - b. Include all workers in Border Region to be able to attend work if they cannot work remotely
2. Develop an Exemption Protocol to process all the exceptional circumstances (eg. Melbourne Contractors delivering multiple LGA infrastructure projects, Harvester Contractors for NSW cereal harvest, Shearers, Construction and Trade Contractors to work outside regional designated areas, Farm Managers to visit livestock and properties etc) to enter under special conditions.
3. Include Border Region in government social, health, education and financial assistance packages
4. Deliver a Border Closure Response like a Disaster Response
5. Ag Permit needs review immediately – 100km limit is pointless as many seasonal contractors and Farm Managers with livestock live outside hort belt of Murray River (eg Cereal and pulse harvesters live in wheat belt of VIC and work from Moree to Riverina, shearers from Geelong)

Community sentiment; Ag community highly frustrated and upset as new order did not deliver promised relief for contractors nor NSW Farmers not allowed to visit properties.

Uptick of hopefulness with Deputy Premier Barilaro visiting Albury to consult and witness.

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