



**CHAIR: PETER PARKINSON**

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**Building and Construction Industry – Coronavirus (COVID-19)**  
**Industry Conference**  
**20 October 2021**  
**Statement**

1. Following a request from Industry participants, pursuant to the Panel’s Charter, the Chair convened a Conference of the relevant parties for the purpose of dealing with serious concerns that had been raised about COVID-19 vaccination status in Large Scale Construction. The concern it was said had arisen from conflicting announcements on behalf of Government which was said may well lead to disputation in the Industry.

2. The Conference was conducted by Zoom teleconference on 20 October 2021 and attended by representatives of the CFMEU, Master Builders Victoria, PPTU, Master Plumbers Association and the COVID-19 Industry Liaison Officer.

3. The issue of concern was specifically in relation to the announcement that increasing Large Scale Construction capacity to 100% would occur “*only if all workers were fully vaccinated*”, intended to take effect Friday 22 October 2021. This announcement was in conflict with previous Government announcements and expectations of the Industry that workers who had complied with the schedule for

vaccinations as set out in the previous CHO Directions (including a first dose by 2 October and a second booked by 13 November) would be entitled to be included in the increased capacity to 100%.

4. It was explained by Industry participants that the assumption arising from the most recent announcements was that some workers, whilst having complied with the earlier mandatory requirements for first dose and booked for their second dose, but not yet fully vaccinated, may well have their employment come to an end on Friday and their role replaced by otherwise fully vaccinated workers. This understandably had led to the disquiet.

5. The Chair, having been acutely aware of the previous unwelcome outcomes arising from some lack of clarity of CHO Directions, and noting the Industry participants were rightly anxious to avoid a repeat, sought clarifications from various Government Departments and others prior to the Conference such that written clarifications might be provided to the Industry that would resolve the issue and avoid any possible disputation.

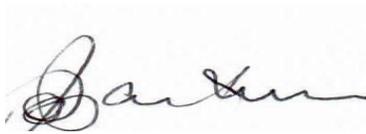
6. Prior to the Conference the Chair was advised by DoH that the recent announcements did not reflect the intention and that the intention was that those workers who have complied with the requirements to be first dosed and are booked in for their second dose by 13 November will definitely be included in the numbers that will allow Large Scale Construction to increase to 100% capacity this Friday. The Chair was advised that DJPR would publish the clarification today. The Chair requested of DJPR and others that a draft of the clarification be provided for review by the Industry participants to ensure clarity and alignment.

7. Immediately prior to the Conference DJPR provided to the Chair and the Conference participants, through the Industry Liaison Officer, the changes that are intended to be published today by Government, as follows:

- *Remaining workforce reductions at all construction sites will be removed this Thursday night once 70 percent of the aged 16 plus population has had two doses. This means:*
  - *All construction projects (large scale, small scale construction and early stage land development projects) can return to 100 percent of their workforce; and*
  - *Workers at all construction sites will need to adhere to the schedule in the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Specified Facilities) Directions, requiring them to have had their first vaccination dose by 2 Oct and a second vaccination dose by 13 Nov.*

- *Previously, Large Scale Construction could only increase to 100% capacity once 70 percent of the aged 16 plus population have had two doses if all workers on site are fully vaccinated. This requirement has now been superseded by the requirement to have your second dose by 13 November. Other COVIDSafe measures such as COVIDSafe Plans and COVIDSafe Marshals will still apply.*

8. Following discussion it was acknowledged that these changes now removed the concerns that had led to the Conference being convened. Accordingly the Chair wished the parties well in their endeavours. The Panel's file on this matter will be closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Parkinson', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Peter Parkinson

Chairman