

Joint Statement 22 June, 2021

The Victorian Regional Chamber Alliance understands the great challenges faced by the State Government in keeping Victoria safe from the spread of COVID-19, however it must be recognised that in regional Victoria there has not been a case since January 14 this year.

We understand there is a need to have regional and metropolitan Victoria as closely aligned as possible and we were thrilled to welcome back our metro friends on the weekend. However, regional workplaces have so far demonstrated a much lower risk profile as fewer people generally work together. A regional office of up to 50 people is a very different scenario to a Melbourne CBD office tower that could house up to 2000 workers.

The work from home if you can work from home directive for Regional Victoria is seriously impeding economic recovery, especially in our CBD's. We plead with the state government to remove the rule of "If you can work from home you must work from home" from the Regional Victoria's restrictions.

It is also important to note a much higher proportion of Regional Victoria's workers drive themselves to work every day instead of catching public transport which we understand is a big concern for community transmission in Melbourne, we do not have the danger of people catching trains and trams within our regional cities at anywhere near the same level.

Our businesses rely heavily on the foot traffic from people in our CBD, in order to aid their recovery from the past eighteen months and this most recent devastating lockdown we ask that this directive be lifted now.

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