

WA ROADMAP PHASE 3 UPDATE

Attachments: Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee NOTES the update to the WA Roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This report provides an update on Phase 3 of the WA Government's easing of COVID-19 public health restrictions, and provides further information on the Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Vincent.

BACKGROUND:

The COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Committee endorsed actions for implementing Phases 1 and 2 of the Roadmap to a COVIDSafe Vincent on 12 May 2020, to be included in the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy.

The WA Government has since released Phase 3 of the 'Our way forward – Western Australia's roadmap for the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions', which will apply from 6 June 2020, one week earlier than expected – see <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap>. A 'frequently asked questions' document has been released to assist with interpretation of the WA Roadmap.

DETAILS:

Phase 3 of the WA roadmap includes the following easing of restrictions:

- Public gatherings can increase to 100 people, or 300 people for a multi-space venue;
- A 2 square metre per person density rule now applies, reduced from 4 square metres per person;
- Physical distancing and good hygiene remain as key public health measures;
- COVID Safety Plans will be required for all re-opened businesses and community facilities and a register of names and contact numbers of patrons would have to be kept;
- Food businesses and licensed premises can provide a seated service; and
- Wellbeing and health services, and leisure and recreation services can operate with certain restrictions in place.

Many actions from Phase 2 are being continued into Phase 3 of the Vincent Roadmap. This includes reopening of community facilities and provision of an advisory service to businesses.

The following new actions are to be included in the COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Strategy:

1. Revise all of the City's COVID Safety Plans to accommodate Phase 3 requirements;
2. Broaden scope of services at the Library and Local History Centre, Community Centre and Beatty Park Leisure Centre and community halls in line with Phase 3; and
3. Re-open playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gym equipment.

Further information on these actions is included below:

1. Library and Local History Centre

The team in the Library/Local History Centre and Community Centre will continue to comply with and reinforce physical distancing requirements and continue existing cleaning regimes and procedures. In all areas the health of our seniors in particular is of paramount importance.

Limited access to public PCs in the library and the local history centre will be re-introduced, with a time limit of 30 minutes per user. In the library and the local history centre limited seating will be reinstalled and the community centre would be able to accommodate more groups, considering the increase in capacity to 100 people (e.g. church groups).

The library will remain open on weekdays and numbers will be monitored to consider if extending hours can be justified, however previous weekend staffing allocations could make it challenging to monitor COVID restrictions. It is planned to continue the click and collect 'Mystery Bag' service during Phase 3 as well as other online offerings. Events and other programs would be considered for Phase 4.

2. Beatty Park Leisure Centre

Beatty Park are currently reviewing the new restrictions and looking to expand their offerings where possible. An increase in opening hours, number of fitness classes and the return of Water Polo and Synchronized Swimming will happen from 8 June 2020. Communications will be provided to all members and the website and social media channels updated as decisions are made.

The new 300 person per venue limit will still not allow a return to normal business.

The Phase 3 FAQ's state that *"Large community sporting facilities or wildlife parks, that can accommodate more than 300 patrons, while allowing for two square metres per patron, may apply for an exemption to the 300 patron limit, in due course, through wa.gov.au, for a decision by the Chief Health Officer"*.

Beatty Park will apply for this exemption.

3. Use of parks, sporting grounds and community halls

Playgrounds, outdoor fitness equipment and skate parks will be re-opened, and contact sport and training can recommence. COVID Safety Plans for community halls can be amended to accommodate the new density rule and gathering limit. It is expected this will increase bookings of these spaces.

4. Supporting Local Businesses

The City is continuing to work closely with local businesses and town teams to support the economic rebound of our town centres. This includes supporting businesses to prepare COVID Safety Plans and understand how many dine-in customers they can accommodate with the updated restrictions, supporting applications for extended trading permits for liquor licensing, continued relaxing of outdoor eating area, goods display and parklet requirements. The Leederville Village Square will remain open for pedestrians and local businesses to use until 15 June 2020 and the City will continue to review the function and layout of the space to best accommodate its use while complying with the relevant restrictions. A business e-newsletter will be sent out the week of 2 June 2020.

5. Public Health Advice

Health Services are reviewing guidance material released by the Department of Health and will continue to communicate this information to businesses. This includes beauty and personal care services which can re-open from 6 June 2020. The City has been in contact with the WA Government to request assistance in translating the COVID Safety Plan Guidance material into other languages to assist our culturally and linguistically diverse business community. This is being produced, however no timeframe has been provided at this stage.

6. Council and Administration

The 9 June 2020 Council Briefing will be conducted in the Civic Centre, with option of Elected Members and public attending remotely via video-conference, or in person. Phase 3 requirements will be applied to the City’s return to work procedures.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

Nil.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Restrictions in WA are implemented and eased by the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and *Public Health Act 2016*.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

The risk of the COVID-19 pandemic has been high to both the City and the community.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City’s *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Innovative and Accountable

Our community is aware of what we are doing and how we are meeting our goals.

COVID-19 RELIEF AND RECOVERY STRATEGY ALIGNMENT:



SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The development and implementation of the roadmap will be undertaken within the existing budget.