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Dear citrus grower

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update

I am writing to provide an update on COVID-19. Although it still looms as an unknown for the citrus industry, Citrus Australia will provide advice and information as it comes to hand.

I am attending briefings from state governments and will keep industry aware as soon as I receive new information.

As you are no doubt aware, the landscape changes quickly as our Federal and state governments attempt to prevent the spread of the virus.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison ordered all travellers entering Australia to self-isolate for 14 days.

Citrus Australia is in regular contact with the Federal Government, and awaiting updated information on any impacts to the Seasonal Worker Programme or Pacific Labour Scheme, of which you will be advised immediately.

Businesses can also access the Seasonal Worker Programme information line (Department of Education, Skills and Employment) on (02) 6240 5234 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

All tourists, including backpackers, entering the country will need to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Airlines have also reported a significant reduction in flight bookings as outbreaks occur across the globe.

Current Government modelling indicates the expected peak in infections in Australia will occur in August.

As a result of this information, Citrus Australia advises all growers to prepare contingency plans to minimise potential impact on their business during harvest, particularly in areas of labour.

This morning, Victorian Premier Dan Andrews declared a state of emergency for the next four weeks. The powers give the State government sweeping powers to restrict movement and shut down mass gatherings when required.

This message is echoed in other state ministers' statements and could mean some impact on freight movement.

As reported there is also likely to be impacts on availability of some farming inputs such as fertilisers and agrichemicals but also on componentry and parts for agricultural machinery and equipment.

Whilst demand for citrus appears to remain strong in markets such as China, some impact can be expected on logistics as the backlog of containers is worked through. Gaining access to reefers may prove difficult as normal shipping routes are affected.

Last week, the Prime Minister released a stimulus package for businesses, including increasing the asset write off threshold and accelerating depreciation deductions. The Victorian Chamber of

Commerce has provided a helpful information sheet on this package (relevant to businesses in all states), with additional fact sheets from the Government. [You can access it here.](#)

You can also visit the Australian Government [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) health alert page here.](#)

The WA Government has also provided [this advice \(click here\)](#) on preparing your business against COVID-19, including risk management planning and encouraging healthy behaviours in staff.

I have included information from [SafeWork Australia \(click here\)](#) on employee health and safety as well as health information from individual States. We encourage you to regularly check these pages to remain informed in a rapidly changing environment.

- [South Australia](#)
- [NSW](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [Western Australia](#)

I will provide updated information following further briefings this week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Nathan Hancock', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nathan Hancock
Chief Executive Officer
Citrus Australia Ltd