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TO OUR VALUED DELIVERY PARTERS

ABN 92 366 288 135

The South Australian Government has directed that during the COVID-19 outbreak each government agency should adopt measures that will:

- a) minimise the spread of COVID-19 with South Australia,
- b) ensure we continue to deliver essential services, and
- c) keep the economy moving by providing work opportunities for industry.

As you know, the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) works with a broad range of delivery partners, including your organisation, to deliver a significant portfolio of construction projects and maintenance programs. The state government has made it clear this vital work must continue; and we must do what is practicable to make adjustments to ways of working to deal with the challenges presented by current circumstances.

We are aware of, and sensitive to the challenges that COVID-19 may present for managing your workforce, your deliverables and your businesses. DPTI is committed to working with the industry collaboratively to mitigate these impacts.

A number of proactive steps have already been implemented by Government. We have been asked to accelerate projects to market, which is already occurring. The State Government has also set a seven day payment target, to keep money moving. The Premier has also established an industry advisory group that will assist him in considering overall government policy settings and initiatives.

DPTI will also be engaging directly with industry to develop measures that enable projects and programs to keep to their schedule to the greatest extent practicable. We will also deal equitably and fairly with issues that affect the capacity to deliver as contracted, and any flow on effects to time and costs.

Our leadership teams have already been actively engaging with industry bodies and key delivery partners to develop measures that manage the risks of COVID-19 and enable delivery to be sustained. I know many of you are reaching out to DPTI staff already and we encourage continued engagement and collaboration to introduce practical measures that mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on the projects or programs we work on together.

The collaboration needs to flow through the whole supply chain. Consequently we expect that head contractors or lead consultants will likewise commit to working collaboratively with sub-consultants and sub-contractors to mitigate the end to end impacts. Should this necessitate amendment to existing contractual arrangements, then DPTI will give such measures due consideration.

Challenging times like these also present circumstances where we need to be inventive and innovative. There may be opportunities to develop new approaches to delivery and different ways of working. We encourage you to raise any concepts you may have with us so we can explore opportunities together.

Finally, we appreciate the construction industry is well versed in the effective management of workplace health and safety matters. It is critical we all continue to work in strict compliance with all current requirements of the authorities managing the response to COVID-19, including all restrictions. The importance of embracing and implementing such measures cannot be underestimated.

It is vital that in these challenging times we work together to achieve the best outcome for both the State and the construction industry. If there are any immediate issues you wish to discuss, please raise them with the senior DPTI manager/executive with whom you deal. Our team will capture all issues raised and ensure a coordinated response or action.

Yours sincerely,



Tony Braxton-Smith
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

30 March 2020