

Boss will pay for tradie time off to get their jobs



Building yesterday.

BEN PIKE

A SYDNEY property developer will pay staff to get the job in an effort to get construction up to speed.

As construction sites commenced very limited operations on Saturday, Urban Property Group says it will give their 110 employees half the day off at full pay to get vaccinated.

CEO Patrick Elias also

called on the government to roll out the practice industry-wide, saying "it is cheaper to have staff take a half day compared to the workforce being given a stay at home order for two weeks".

Developers say they are running well below capacity because the majority of their workforce is from the eight LGAs of concern.

Deicorp spokesman Robert Furolo said only 15 per

cent of their workforce are able to come onsite, adding "until the lockdowns are lifted or exemptions are provided, construction will be very limited at most sites".

Urban Taskforce CEO Tom Forrest said they are requesting the government offer essential worker exemptions for critical trades living in hot spots, including scaffolders, specialist riggers and crane operators.

More than 70,000 construction workers reside in the restricted LGAs, where only a handful of workers are allowed to leave the area for work.

A spokesman for property developers Holdmark said "construction will be at the heart of rebooting the economy and we are ready to play our part with new job creating projects once the lockdown restrictions ease".