

COVID-19: Development Industry Update

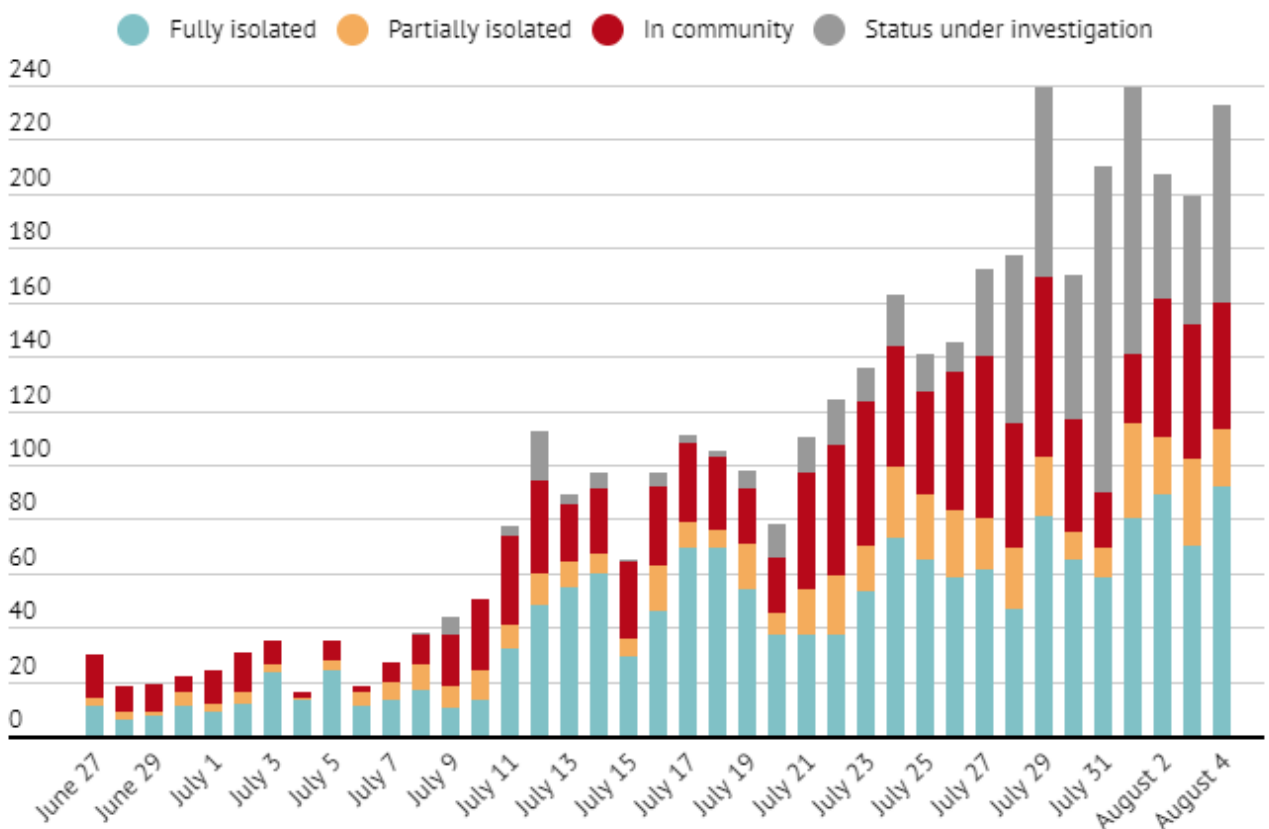
Members only update - Construction Industry Peaks

Wednesday August 4, 2021

Context: there were 233 new cases identified in the 24 hours up till 8pm last night.

Of the new local cases, 93 were from the South-Western Sydney Local Health District, 65 from Western Sydney's district and 54 from the central Sydney district, where numbers have been rising in recent days.

NSW COVID isolation v community



There is real fear that the list of locked down LGAs could **increase before it decreases**.

Authorised worker list (allowed to leave “locked down” LGAs) is still being developed by Treasury – backed up by data. Government will make a decision on this tomorrow.

Generally, industry is struggling to make projects work with the current restrictions.

The lockdown applies to certifiers and supervisors – this is impacting on jobs throughout Greater Sydney.

Rapid Antigen Testing

The trials are being developed with a co-ordination group overseeing it. Trials will look at different tests and procedures for administration. They will also look at how they work on small “cottage construction sites”; house and land sub-divisions; general residential; high rise residential; commercial construction and infrastructure construction sites.

Mobile Vaccine bus for construction sites

Government is looking to develop a Government operated “Vaccine Bus” – that can visit construction work sites. More information will be provided soon.

Certifiers

The meeting discussed the critical need for certifiers to be authorised to leave the locked down LGAs. In the case of certifiers, there was already a shortage prior to the lockdown – but with the lockdown and the inability for a builder/developer to change the certifier, this is a real issue.

Can the Employer (a builder/developer) mandate that staff/sub contractors are vaccinated?

We have asked for a definitive answer to this.

The short answer is, at present, no. The Commonwealth is responsible for the Industrial regulation of the construction industry. Over time, however, prohibitions on certain activities where people are not vaccinated will be looked at by both the NSW and Commonwealth Government, particularly as the shortages in vaccine supply abate.

Options raised also included allowing people in locked down LGAs to leave if they have been vaccinated.

Tom Forrest
CEO
Urban Taskforce
m. +61 429 460 863
e. CEO@UrbanTaskforce.com.au

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