

Fact sheet: Queensland border restrictions – what it means for business and industry?

To slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Queensland Government is tightening restricted entry into Queensland from 12:01am on Friday, 3 April 2020.

These restrictions continue to provide for the continuation of essential goods and services for Queenslanders.

Anyone who is not a Queensland resident or considered an 'exempt person' (as defined by the Directive) who arrives in Queensland by land, sea or air from another State or Territory from 12.01 am on 3 April 2020 will not be allowed to enter Queensland.

If you meet the criteria for an 'exempt person' (see below for more details – 'Who is an exempt person?'), then please consider applying online for a Queensland Entry Pass to avoid delays at the border.

These restrictions replaced the previous arrangement which allowed people to cross the border provided they self-quarantine for 14 days.

Any person who is ordinarily a resident in Queensland is an exempt person.

However, in some circumstances even Queensland residents returning to Queensland will still be required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. This includes residents who:

- have been outside the border of Australia in the last 14 days; or
- have travelled in the last 14 days to a COVID-19 hotspot in Australia. COVID-19 hotspots will be decided by the Chief Health Officer and published on the [Queensland Health website](#).

It also includes people moving to Queensland to take up permanent residence. They must also self quarantine for 14 days (possibly at their new residence).

Additional restrictions also will be in place for FIFO workers who live interstate and work in Queensland from 11.59pm Saturday 4 April 2020. From that time, only critical resource sector employees will be allowed to enter Queensland from interstate to their work. These are employees critical to the ongoing operation of a resource activity or the resource supply chain and will be detailed on the QH website.

Who is an exempt person?

Those living outside of Qld who provide critical services to Qld:

- national/state security
- essential health services
- emergency services
- transport of goods or freight including food
- critical construction, maintenance and/or repair to critical infrastructure in Qld
- construction, mining/energy/agribusinesses (and see below for specific requirements for FIFO workers in these sectors)
- Any person who in performing their duties is responsible for provision of services for local passenger transport including bus services, taxi and ride share services, transport or freight is covered



- federal, state or local government employee worker or contractor who is required to enter Queensland to perform official duties.

Qld also allows a general compassionate grounds exemption, as well as specific exemptions for those living outside of Qld who:

- are carers/relatives of dependant individuals in Qld
- need to obtain essential medical treatment including visiting terminally ill relatives in Qld
- are interstate boarding school students where school is closed
- are required to comply with the law to travel to Qld (for example, Family Court, parole/bail conditions etc).

You will also be considered an 'exempt person' if you are moving to make Queensland your permanent place of residence, but you must self-quarantine for 14 days.

Special exemptions for border communities – New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory

- To reflect the unique nature of our border, people who live interstate near the border but work in Qld will be able to continue to travel for that purpose. This is not restricted to work relating to essential services.
- The exemption only applies if the person does not propose to stay in Qld for longer than reasonably necessary to attend work.
- The exemption also applies when people living in these border communities travel interstate to obtain essential goods and services, including to attend school or child care or obtain medical or other essential services and for other permitted purposes.

Exemptions for FIFO worker

A person who lives interstate and works in Queensland in the construction, commercial fishing, manufacturing, resources sector, energy or agribusiness industry is still allowed to travel to Queensland to work without having to undertake self-quarantine provided their employer has provided a compliant plan to manage preventing the transmission of COVID-19 among its employees and the community.

However, additional restrictions will be in place for FIFO workers in the resource sector who live interstate and work in Queensland from 11.59pm Saturday 4 April 2020. From that time, only critical resource sector employees will be allowed to enter Queensland from interstate to work. These are employees critical to the ongoing operation of a resource activity or the resource supply chain which are detailed on the Queensland Health website.

FIFO workers who live and work in Queensland can continue to work in any FIFO roles in Queensland. Additional restrictions about overseas travel or hotspots continue to apply to interstate and Queensland FIFOs.

Whether the FIFO worker comes from interstate or within Qld, they will be required to provide evidence that they are FIFO workers, who they are working for, and that they are entering Qld to go directly to work.

The companies they work for in Queensland will also have to provide a health plan that complies with requirements set by the Chief Health Officer that ensures adequate hygiene and safety requirements to limit the transmission of COVID19.

[Access the template Health Plan.](#)

For Queensland residents who perform FIFO work for a company interstate, that company does not have to comply with a health plan set by Chief Health Officer. However if the FIFO work is in a hotspot declared by Chief Health Officer, the person must self-quarantine on return to Queensland.

Will freight and equipment be able to cross the border into Queensland?

Freight and logistics for any goods into Queensland from interstate is still permitted, including retail goods for pharmacies, grocery stores and petrol stations, on the condition that the person must practise social distancing wherever possible, including maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 metres where reasonably practicable and remain isolated in their vehicle or accommodation.

How will the measures be enforced?

Qld police and other emergency officers under the Public Health Act 2005 will be responsible for enforcing the measures. Other Commonwealth officers may also be involved.

Specific processes apply for those entering through airports, who will be required to provide certain information including:

- Personal and contact details
- The address where they intend to stay in Queensland
- Information about where they have travelled in the last 30 days

If a person is entering Queensland from another State or Territory by air in order to transfer to another flight they are allowed to enter Queensland, but must remain in the airport until the time of a transfer to another flight, or self-quarantine in a hotel until the other flight.

In addition to these special requirements for airports, enforcement of these restrictions will apply to roads, rail and sea ports.

If a person fails to comply with the direction/s, an emergency officer may use reasonable force to enforce the direction.

If the person does not comply with the quarantine directions, penalties will apply: \$13,345 for individuals and \$66,672.50 for corporations. It is possible the enforcement officer can issue on the spot tickets of \$1334.50 or \$6,672.50 for corporations.

For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/.