

Version: 22 May 2020

Table of Contents

1. Council administration buildings, depots and offices.....	2
2. Council meetings and public forums.....	2
3. Food business regulation.....	5
4. Libraries.....	5
5. Galleries, museums and other cultural venues.....	6
6. Community halls and centres.....	7
7. Organised sporting activities.....	8
8. Beaches, parks and other outdoor spaces.....	11
9. Outdoor public play equipment, gym equipment and skateparks.....	14
10. Swimming pools.....	16
11. Caravan parks and camping grounds.....	19
12. Boating and other recreational vessels.....	19

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) provide responses to a range of local government enquires as councils progressively ease COVID-19 restrictions in line with public health orders and is for guidance only. Decisions on whether to open a facility or service remains a matter for individual councils.

Even if a service or facility is able to remain open, councils should work as far as possible to maintain [social distancing](#) requirements and good [hygiene](#) practices consistent with NSW Government advice.

For more information please visit the [NSW Government](#) and [NSW Health](#) websites.

Councils should also consider the use of signage exhibiting ‘risk warnings’ under the *Civil Liability Act 2002*.

Version: 22 May 2020

Council administration buildings, depots and offices	
Can council staff return to work in administration buildings and offices?	The Public Health Order of 14 May 2020 directs employers to allow an employee to work at the person's place of residence where it is reasonably practicable to do so. It is a matter for individual councils to determine how to comply with this direction, based on the relevant circumstances. The Public Health Order changes certain restrictions on people in office buildings. Specifically, the limit on 100 people in an indoor space and the requirement that a premises provides sufficient space to allow for 4 square metres of space per person ("the 4 square metre rule") no longer apply in office buildings. However, where staff do return to the office to work, it is recommended that councils ensure that adequate physical distancing continues to be maintained. Staff must continue to stay home if they are sick.
Do the exclusions of the Public Health Order apply to indoor spaces at council works depots?	Yes. The Public Health Order exclusion in terms of eased restrictions for certain gatherings applies to all "office buildings". It is a matter for individual councils to determine which of their buildings fall into this category.
Council meetings and public forums	
Can council meetings, committee meetings now be held?	<p>It is now permissible for councillors and council staff to leave their homes for the purposes of attending council and committee meetings and to attend meetings in person.</p> <p>Councils should continue to allow councillors and staff to attend and participate in council and committee meetings by audio visual links where it is reasonably practicable to do so.</p> <p>Members of the public are not permitted to attend meetings (other than for the purposes of work) if this means that the total number of people attending meetings (including councillors and staff) exceed 10.</p>

Version: 22 May 2020

	<p>Where councils exclude members of the public from meetings, they must livestream their meetings using audio-visual links to satisfy the requirement under section 10 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> for members of the public to be permitted to “attend” meetings.</p> <p>Councils must not allow persons to attend meetings if the size of the meeting venue is insufficient to ensure there is 4 square metres of space for each person attending the meeting.</p> <p>Where councillors and staff do participate in face to face meetings, councils must ensure that adequate physical distancing continues to be maintained. Staff and councillors must continue to stay home if they are sick.</p> <p>Further information about compliance with social distancing requirements at council and committee meetings can be found in Council Circular 20-17 and Council Circular 20-09.</p> <p>Separate advice is provided in relation to planning panels below.</p>
Can councils undertake face to face public consultation (including at public forums)?	Public forums should only be held in a manner that is consistent with the Public Health Order. Where this is not possible, public forums should not be held, or alternative arrangements should be made for the making of public submissions to councillors. For example, submissions could be made to councillors via an audio-visual link or in writing instead of in person. Further information about the ability of councils to hold public forums during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found in Council Circular 20-09 .
Do the newly eased restrictions apply to planning panels?	Advice from DPIE on holding planning panels has not changed. Restrictions on meetings during COVID-19 are changing rapidly. They are now being eased in stages across government. Councils should continue to check the DPIE Planning Panel website for the latest information on meeting requirements for Local Planning Panels.
What provisions exist to allow council staff to travel more than one per vehicle? As public spaces	SafeWork NSW advises that if more than one person is required in a vehicle, occupants must ensure people are seated in the most distant seats, have the air circulating with outside air and open windows when possible. Further information about safe work practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a number of case studies can be found on the SafeWork NSW website .

Version: 22 May 2020

open up more staff will be required to monitor and clean equipment. Can more than one person travel in a council vehicle if one is on the back seat?	
What is council's role in enforcing and/or educating business and wider community in relation to restrictions – and under what instrument? For example, religious groups and businesses conducting funerals and weddings – is this the role of local government to enforce the number of persons attending?	Councils play an important role in disseminating information to businesses and the community, through local networks. For the most up to date information, councils should visit OLG's COVID-19 webpage .
Can there be a form of reconciliation back to the Commonwealth Roadmap given the high publicity and visibility of this within the community and councils.	Every state has its own circumstances and must be able to move at its own pace. NSW will consider other changes when it is safe to do so, based on the data and best available health advice. This advice will be based on testing, tracing and tracking cases and using technology such as the COVIDSafe app . For the most up to date information on the status of restrictions in NSW visit the NSW Government's COVID-19 webpage .

Version: 22 May 2020

Food Business Regulation

The NSW Food Authority has previously advised council environmental health officers not to undertake routine inspections. With the restricted reopening of cafes and restaurants, are routine inspections expected to commence?

The NSW Food Authority has updated its [Food businesses and COVID-19 webpage](#) which includes the latest advice surrounding the virus. Councils are advised to keep up to date with the latest developments on COVID-19 and food safety. The Food Authority's Local Government Unit will also continue to regularly engage with local councils.

To assist in the reopening of many retail food businesses, food regulators have developed a [voluntary checklist](#) for food businesses. It is also available on the FRP Portal.

When speaking with food businesses, councils may wish to remind them that they must continue to comply with existing requirements under the Food Standards Code, with particular vigilance on maintaining good hygiene practices.

Please refer to the FRP Portal for further specific advice surrounding food surveillance activities, or alternatively contact the [NSW Food Authority](#) for further information.

Libraries

When can libraries reopen?

What are the rules for managing social distancing and hygiene in libraries?

The NSW Government has announced libraries will be permitted to reopen from 1 June 2020.

The NSW Government has announced that the following restrictions will be in place for reopening:

- There must be sufficient space to ensure there are 4m² for each person in the library at any one time
- Seating in the facility must be spread out to ensure the 1.5m social distancing rules are met
- Books to be quarantined for 24 hours before returning to shelves
- Distance markers must be used to manage queues
- If a café or restaurant is on site with the library, it must also enforce the relevant person limit within the food premises at any one time, as per other eateries

Version: 22 May 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff and visitors who are unwell must not enter the library• The library must implement enhanced cleaning and hand sanitising, and• Groups or tours are not permitted. <p>Libraries are also being encouraged to specify special opening times for high risk groups, including people over 70 years of age.</p> <p>Councils should begin to consider how they may be able to implement systems that enable contact details of attendees to be registered in the event that they need to be traced by NSW Health if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 linked to the library.</p> <p>The State Library of NSW is working with all NSW public libraries and providing assistance on reopening plans. Please see the State Library's Public Library Services website for details and contacts.</p> <p>Information will include a full checklist of safety precautions from NSW Health.</p> <p>Further information will be provided to councils as it becomes available.</p>
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Galleries, museums and other cultural venues

When can galleries and museums reopen? What are the rules for managing social distancing and hygiene in these facilities?	<p>The NSW Government has announced that museums and galleries will be permitted to reopen on 1 June 2020.</p> <p>The NSW Government has announced the following requirements for the reopening of galleries and museums will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There must be sufficient space to ensure there are 4m² for each person in the facility at any one time• Seating in the facility must be spread out to ensure the 1.5m social distancing rules are met• Books to be quarantined for 24 hours before returning to shelves• Distance markers must be used to manage queues
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Version: 22 May 2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If a café or restaurant is on site with the facility, it must also enforce the relevant person limit within the food premises at any one time, as per other eateries• Staff and visitors who are unwell must not enter the facility• The facility must implement enhanced cleaning and hand sanitising,• Groups or tours are not permitted; and• Online ticketing systems must be used. <p>Clarification is being sought about what councils that cannot implement an online ticketing system should do. Meanwhile, these councils should begin to consider how they may be able to implement systems that allow attendees to be contacted in the event that there is an outbreak of COVID-19 linked to the museum or gallery.</p> <p>Further advice will be provided to councils and how to implement the restrictions that apply when available.</p> <p>Create NSW is working with all galleries and museums and providing assistance on reopening plans. Please see the Create NSW website for details and contacts. Information will include a full checklist of safety precautions from NSW Health that will need to be met before galleries and museums can open their doors. Create NSW will be conducting a webinar in the week beginning 25 May which councils may choose to attend.</p> <p>Further information will be provided to councils as it becomes available.</p>
Community halls and centres	
Can I open my council's community centre or hall? Are there any exceptions?	Community centres and halls must remain closed. If and when that changes, further guidance will be provided. Councils should determine whether or not premises are a community centre, and therefore must be closed. For this purpose, a 'community centre' is any building in which members of the community meet for social or other purposes whether or not it is called a 'community centre'. Common examples include town and community halls and neighbourhood centres. These buildings must remain closed.

Version: 22 May 2020

	<p>Certain similar buildings may broadly meet the definition of a community centre but the rules that apply to it are set out separately in the Public Health Order – for example, libraries, which are treated as information and education facilities. Unless the Public Health Order states that a specific type of building may open, councils must keep the building closed.</p> <p>The Public Health Order does enable premises, such as community centres, to open for two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to provide a service to assist vulnerable members of the public, for example, a food bank or a service providing for the needs of homeless persons, or• as an early education and care facility.
Can religious services, weddings, funerals and wakes be held in community centres?	No. While the Public Health Order permits religious services, weddings and funerals to be held (with limited participants) they may not be held in community centres and other buildings that are required to be closed.
Organised sporting activities	
What has changed for sporting activities in the new Public Health Order? When do those changes start?	From 14 May 2020 the Public Health Order provides that, in general, people may participate in gatherings outdoors of not more than 10 people in public places. They also provide that outdoor public swimming pools, outdoor play equipment in public places, outdoor gymnasium equipment in public places and skateparks need no longer be closed. This includes exercise and training.
What has changed in terms of professional sporting activities?	Professional sports organisations are workplaces and therefore are permitted to continue their operations at this time in NSW.

Version: 22 May 2020

	<p>Professional sports training and competition can proceed without spectators or other public attendance provided they meet their occupational health and safety obligations and comply with relevant Ministerial directions and other legal requirements.</p>
Is there an exemption for lawn bowling?	<p>Yes. As of 19 May 2020, exempt registered clubs or pubs that have bowling greens may allow lawn bowling as long as the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only 10 people are permitted on the bowling green any one time, excluding staff and/or game officials• Every person on the bowling green (other than members of the same household) must maintain physical distancing of 1.5m where practicable and safe• The licensee of the registered club or pub must:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Take reasonable steps to record the name and phone number of each person playing lawn bowls◦ Keep records of the above for 4 weeks, and◦ Provide a copy of the records to the Ministry of Health, if required for contact tracing. <p>This means that staff and/or game officials can also be on the green at the same time as the 10 players, as long as the 1.5 metre rule applies where practicable and safe.</p>
Do councils have to reopen any sporting grounds and facilities that are currently closed?	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether or not to open any sporting grounds and facilities for which they are responsible. In making this decision, council may wish to consider whether it is possible to meet social distancing and public hygiene requirements – e.g. whether there will be 4m² of space per person. However, the NSW Government urges all councils to keep public facilities open and operational where possible.</p>
Can councils reopen grounds or a facility but restrict use to fewer than 10 people?	<p>Councils are not responsible for enforcing the Public Health Order but are responsible for managing public areas and facilities for which they have care and control. This means that councils are responsible for enforcing closure orders or any conditions placed on use of a public area or facility, even if that is for the purposes of protecting public health.</p>

Version: 22 May 2020

	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether or not to open any sporting grounds and facilities for which they are responsible and any conditions that apply to their use. In making this decision, councils may wish to consider whether it is possible to meet social distancing and public hygiene requirements. They should work with their Police Local Area Command in implementation of any restrictions.</p>
Do councils have to keep facilities at sporting grounds open where they are the only public toilets?	<p>No. However, councils should carefully consider whether it is in the public interest to keep these facilities open where they are the only public toilets available to residents.</p>
What should councils do where they have waived fees or made similar subsidies on the assumption that sporting activities cannot proceed?	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether to review the term of any subsidies or waivers previously granted and may wish to take into account whether activities have recommenced and the extent to which fields and related facilities are open and in use.</p> <p>With the ongoing uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, councils are being asked to waive fees, and charges for those facing hardship, balanced against compliance with legislative requirements, including local sporting clubs and organisations.</p> <p>To provide flexibility in waiving fees and charges, the Government announced measures that allow councils to waive or reduce fees under a new COVID-19 category. This means that councils can immediately apply a fee waiver or reduction for this purpose, without following the usual requirements to establish a category, while also bypassing the need to provide 28 days' public notice.</p> <p>These measures are discretionary on a council-by-council basis and should take into consideration both the financial circumstances of the local community and the flow-on impacts on council revenue and the wider community.</p>
What should councils do if the grounds or facilities	<p>Each council has separate arrangements in place for the use of sporting fields and facilities as well as the cleaning and maintenance of grounds and on-site facilities. Where these grounds or facilities are currently closed</p>

Version: 22 May 2020

needed for sport are not currently ready for use?	and council is considering opening them, they may wish to consider whether they remain appropriate for use. It is suggested that councils discuss these issues with local organisations that commonly use the grounds or facility to identify how best to manage these issues and when it may reopen.
How should changing facilities and toilets at sporting grounds and facilities be managed?	Where possible, councils should consider options to limit the use of communal spaces such as change rooms to assist with the implementation of social distancing consistent with the advice of the Australian Institute of Sport https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#ais_framework_for_rebooting_sport . Councils should carefully consider whether it is in the public interest to keep these facilities open where they are the only public toilets available to residents.
Beaches, parks and other outdoor spaces	
What has changed for beaches, parks and other outdoor spaces in the new Public Health Order? When do those changes start?	From 14 May 2020 the Public Health Order provides that, in general, people may participate in gatherings outdoors of not more than 10 people in public places. They also provide that outdoor public swimming pools, outdoor play equipment in public places, outdoor gymnasium equipment in public places and skateparks need no longer be closed.
Does the total number of people include children?	Yes. Both children and adults must be counted in considering whether a gathering is of more than 10 people in a public place.
Have there been any changes to permitted uses of outdoor areas?	From 14 May 2020 the Public Health Order provides that, in general, people may participate in gatherings outdoors of not more than 10 people in public places. The orders do not specify the purposes for which people may gather. In addition, the Public Health Order no longer states that people can only leave their homes for certain specific purposes, such as to undertake exercise. Taken together, this means that people can gather in outdoor spaces for social purposes, such as to have a picnic or BBQ.

Version: 22 May 2020

Do each group of people in an outdoor public area need to remain a certain distance apart?	<p>The Public Health Order requires no more than 10 people to gather in public spaces. This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no more than 10 people in a group can occupy a space together so that individual people are closer than 1.5 metres apart within that group,• more than one group of 10 people can use a public outdoor area at the same time if<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the overall limit of 500 people in an outdoor area is not exceeded○ where there is more than one group of people in a space, the people in that group should be at least 1.5 metres from the people in any other group, and○ there is sufficient space in that outdoor area for each person to have 4m² each. <p>Each adult and child within an outdoor area should be counted towards the total of 10 people.</p>
Are councils required to reopen beaches, parks and other outdoor spaces?	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether or not to open any outdoor spaces for which they are responsible and any conditions that apply to their use. Where a council determines it is necessary to close a space or to restrict its use, clear public signage should be placed at key access points.</p>
Can BBQ areas and picnic shelters be reopened? If so, what conditions must or should apply?	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether or not to open any outdoor spaces for which they are responsible and any conditions that apply to their use. Where a council decides to open BBQ areas and picnic shelters it should consider additional measures to keep facilities clean for the purposes of public hygiene, so far as possible.</p> <p>Ultimately, however, it is a matter for the public to use these facilities at their own risk in terms of their cleanliness.</p>
Can beaches be opened?	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether or not to open any outdoor spaces for which they are responsible and any conditions that apply to their use.</p>

Version: 22 May 2020

	<p>As the Public Health Order does not specify the purposes for which people can gather outdoors or why they may leave their homes, use of any beaches that are open is not conditional unless a specific condition is applied by a council.</p> <p>Where a council determines it is necessary to close a space or to restrict its use, clear public signage should be placed at key access points.</p>
Can councils apply additional conditions that are more restrictive than the Public Health Order?	<p>It is a matter for each council to determine whether or not to open any outdoor spaces for which they are responsible and any conditions that apply to their use. Councils should exercise caution in applying any additional conditions that are not strictly required to ensure that the Public Health Order is complied with. If council applies any further conditions, those conditions must be within council's powers and enforced by council's authorised compliance and enforcement officers.</p>
What is councils' role in terms of managing public use of beaches and other outdoor spaces?	<p>Councils are not responsible for enforcing the Public Health Order but are responsible for managing public areas and facilities for which they are responsible. This means that councils are responsible for enforcing closure orders or any conditions placed on use of a public area or facility, even if that is for the purposes of protecting public health. They should work with their Police Local Area Command in implementation of any restrictions.</p>
Can councils allow outdoor markets to be held?	<p>Yes, outdoor markets for fresh food only may be held.</p>

Version: 22 May 2020

Outdoor public play equipment, gym equipment and skateparks	
Can outdoor play equipment and outdoor gym equipment open?	Yes. Public outdoor play equipment, outdoor gyms and skateparks can open at the discretion of council and if compliant with the Government's outdoor spacing rules, social distancing and good public health and hygiene practices. Councils should consider how they can support good social distancing and hygiene practices by users.
Is council required to open its outdoor play equipment, outdoor gym equipment and skateparks?	No. This is matter for individual councils. However, where possible councils are encouraged to keep public facilities and equipment open.
What obligation lies on the council as the facility operator? Do councils have an obligation to ensure the 500 people/4sqm distancing rules?	<p>The Public Health Order requires that outdoor spaces must not comprise 500 or more persons at the same time and that the 4 square metre distancing rule must continue to be observed. The public gathering rule of no more than 10 people also still applies.</p> <p>Councils could consider erecting signage to remind users of community equipment to continue to observe the social distancing and gathering advice and to remind them of good health and hygiene practices. Users should maintain social distancing, not go out if they are sick and get tested.</p> <p>Councils are not responsible for enforcing the Public Health Order but are responsible for managing public areas and facilities for which they are responsible. This means that councils are responsible for enforcing closure orders or any conditions placed on use of a public area or facility, even if that is for the purposes of protecting public health. They should work with their Police Local Area Command in implementation of any restrictions.</p>
What does <i>with caution</i> mean?	The Government is urging people making use of outdoor public facilities to continue to observe health and hygiene standards by washing their hands before and after using equipment and to assume the person who has used the equipment before them has the virus.

Version: 22 May 2020

What is the expectation of cleaning of outdoor playground equipment - which is rarely cleaned and there would be a significant cost to put in place a cleaning regime that deals with COVID-19?	<p>The NSW Government advice is that users may use outdoor exercise and playground equipment, but should do so with caution, and to wash their hands before and after they use the equipment and to assume the person who has used the equipment before them has the virus.</p> <p>NSW Health suggests, where possible, that councils consider increased maintenance of handwashing facilities or the provision of hand sanitiser near playgrounds.</p> <p>Cleaning of outdoor equipment could improve the health and hygiene of the community, however, councils are not obliged to clean public outdoor equipment.</p>
Are there time limits on the use of outdoor equipment?	<p>Time limits have not been specified in the Public Health Order. Councils could consider erecting signage to remind users of community equipment to continue to observe the social distancing and gathering advice, and to remind them of good health and hygiene practices.</p> <p>Community members should observe good social etiquette when using public facilities.</p>
Can councils open playgrounds? What restrictions are in place under the Public Health Order?	<p>Since 14 May 2020 outdoor playgrounds and play equipment in public places may be open and may be used with caution. Where possible, councils are encouraged to open these facilities and to keep them open. Ultimately, however, this is a matter for councils to decide.</p> <p>The following key rules are currently in place under the Public Health Orders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no more than 10 people can gather together in public places• the size of the space must be sufficient to ensure there is 4m² of space for each person using the space, and• outdoor spaces must not comprise 500 or more persons at the same time. <p>Councils are not responsible for enforcing these requirements in the Public Health Order, which is a matter for NSW Police. However, as the manager of public areas that contain playgrounds, councils need to take these</p>

Version: 22 May 2020

	<p>rules into account in deciding whether to allow open-specific facilities to be open and whether any specific conditions should apply.</p> <p>Councils should also consider how they can support good social distancing and health and hygiene practices by users, such as by installing signage and notices to communicate the rules that apply.</p> <p>Further, detailed Advice for councils about managing public playgrounds has also been issued by the Office of Local Government.</p>
Does the “10 person gathering rule” apply for the use of outdoor play equipment?	<p>Yes. Unless a council has chosen to apply further restrictions, the rule that requires no more than 10 people to gather in public spaces means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• no more than 10 people in a group can occupy a space together so that individual people are closer than 1.5 metres apart within that group,• more than one group of 10 people can use a public outdoor area at the same time if<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ the overall limit of 500 people in an outdoor area is not exceeded◦ where there is more than one group of people in a space, the people in that group should be at least 1.5 metres from the people in any other group, and◦ there is sufficient space in that outdoor area for each person to have 4m² each. <p>Each adult and child within the playground area should be counted towards the total of 10 people.</p> <p>Further, detailed Advice for councils about managing public playgrounds has also been issued by the Office of Local Government.</p>
<h2>Swimming Pools</h2>	
Can I open my council’s outdoor public swimming pool?	Outdoor pools can open and operate but only if there are no more than 10 people at a time swimming in the pool.

Version: 22 May 2020

Can I open my council's indoor public swimming pools for general use?	No. For general use, indoor swimming pools must remain closed.
Can I open my council's indoor public swimming pools for squad training? What rules for managing social distancing and hygiene apply?	Yes. As of 19 May 2020, indoor pools of 25 metres length or more can be open, strictly for the purposes of allowing squad training only, as long as all of the following conditions are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only one swimmer in the lane at any one time• No more than 10 people in the pool at any one time• The designated area for parents, family or carers can only be used if there is sufficient space to ensure there are 4 square metres of space for each person in the area. This means that pool operator staff, squad swimmers, their trainers and coaches and their parents, family or carers can be within the facility as long as the above conditions are met.
Must I open my council's outdoor public swimming pool?	No. This is a matter for local councils to determine based on their own operating conditions, including seasonal considerations.
How many people can swim in each pool where there are multiple pools within a facility?	There can be up to 10 people swimming in any one outdoor pool within a facility, as long as social distancing rules can still apply. The 10-person limit includes any supervising adult in the pool with their child or children.

Version: 22 May 2020

Does this requirement apply to artesian baths, ocean pools and baths?	This includes any outdoor pool classified as such by the council. However, in relation to ocean pools, as a rule of thumb, pools which have natural ocean flows entering the pool may be classified by the council as part of the ocean rather than a swimming pool for the purposes of the Public Health Order. This is a matter for consideration of the individual circumstances of each water body.
How many people can swim in each lane?	This is a matter for each council on how best to maintain social distancing and the 10-person per outdoor pool limit. Councils should consider the potential for lane limits as recommended by the Australian Institute of Sport https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#ais_framework_for_rebooting_sport .
Must we close change rooms?	Where possible, councils should consider options to limit the use of communal spaces such as change rooms to assist with the implementation of social distancing consistent with the advice of the Australian Institute of Sport https://ais.gov.au/health-wellbeing/covid-19#ais_framework_for_rebooting_sport .
Must we keep public toilets open?	This is a matter for local councils to determine. However, councils should, where possible and practical, keep public facilities open.
What about swimming pools for which councils contract out their pool management?	Councils are still responsible for ensuring pools for which they contract out the management of meet the requirements of the Public Health Order. Councils will need to assess the viability of opening any pools under their care and control in consultation with contractors.

Version: 22 May 2020

Caravan parks and camping grounds	
Can caravan parks and camping grounds reopen?	<p>The NSW Government announced that from 1 June 2020 that residents are allowed to travel intrastate for the purposes of holidays and that a number of caravan parks and camping grounds will be open from 1 June 2020. At this point in time, no further detail is available as to what caravan parks and campgrounds will be permitted to fully reopen. Given this caravan parks and campgrounds should remain closed except for the purposes provided for under the Public Health Order.</p> <p>The Office of Local Government is currently seeking further clarification as to the detail of the announcement and will make this available for councils as soon as it is available.</p>
Boating and other recreational vessels	
Is there an exemption to allow use of boats and other recreational vessels on waterways? What rules for managing social distancing and hygiene apply for using recreational vessels?	<p>Yes. As of 19 May 2020, operators of a recreational vessel can take a vessel out, as long as the following conditions are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All people on the boat, or other recreational vessel, are members of the same household, and/or• Any people on the boat or other recreational vessel who are not members of the same household shall, so far as is reasonably practicable, maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres.
Does the exemption for recreational vessels apply to boats used for commercial purposes?	No. This exemption only relates to boats and other vessels used for a non-commercial purpose.

Version: 22 May 2020