



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION, AIR CONDITIONING AND HEATING

Premier Gladys Berejiklian and Deputy Premier John Barilaro
NSW Government

AIRAH calls on NSW government to add HVAC&R to authorised workers list.

Dear Premier and Deputy Premier,

AIRAH is Australia's peak membership body for professionals and practitioners working in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry. Across the country, we count more than 10,000 members, the largest proportion of which are in New South Wales.

Over the past few days, our members have been urgently asking us for clarification on whether they are considered authorised workers under the NSW government's COVID-19 restrictions.

We have given them the following advice:

New COVID-19 restrictions are now in place in New South Wales. The NSW government website lists authorised workers by industry sector. It states: "Where an item in the list specifies an activity, the effect is to exempt a worker employed or engaged to provide services that are necessary for that activity."

If HVAC&R services are necessary for an activity in the list, AIRAH interprets this to mean that the workers involved in providing those services are exempt from restrictions.

We believe that this reading of the rules is accurate; however, it would be of great benefit if the government could clearly include HVAC&R in the list of authorised workers as follows:

Section 9 - Electricity, gas, **HVAC&R**, water, and waste services.

- electricity services
- operation of energy systems
- gas services
- liquid fuels
- **essential heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) services**
- water supply, sewerage, sanitation and drainage services
- waste resource recovery services (including collection, treatment and disposal services)

Despite being a hidden part of our world, HVAC&R provides critical services for hospitals and vaccination hubs, supermarkets and food transport, data centres, and more. Across the country, our industry employs more than 300,000 people, a major proportion of whom are based in New South Wales.

A clear statement would give these workers clarity, and allow them to provide services that will be vital during COVID-19 restrictions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Gleeson', is positioned below the 'Regards,' text.

Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH
Chief Executive
AIRAH