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Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



STATEMENT

Tuesday 15 September, 2020

Third Step for Regional Victoria

I warmly welcome the Premier's announcement today for rural and regional Victoria to move to Step 3 as of September 17.

I know there are many businesses currently making exciting phone calls to staff, letting them know that they will have shifts later this week and I know many phone calls are being made to hospitality venues to book in a table to dine out.

However, there are also many venues in my electorate that will not open due to the limited scope of the eased of restrictions. There will still be many restrictions in place after taking the 'third step'; opening for some businesses will not be viable. There are also still a number of industries that will still be unable to open until the last step, and I note this leaves many individuals and businesses under severe strain.

In saying this, I welcome the Premier's openness to take on feedback, such as bringing forward the open date for beauty salons following community pressure, including through a letter from myself. It's my hope that more common sense exceptions will continue to be approved such as beginning to schedule urgent elective surgeries in regional Victoria and the opening of gyms to local members.

I look forward to the imminent announcement about increasing the checks at the 'ring of marshmallow' to ensure our regional townships are not put at risk by those travelling from metropolitan areas.

Regional Victoria has done its part in reducing case numbers and we are relying on the Government to also do their part in ensuring the contact tracing is conducted swiftly and effectively. It has been well reported that this has not been the case in some regional areas until recently.

Well done to all regional Victorians for a mammoth effort during the last few months. Let's keep up the fight!