

The following has been released in relation to a request for information relating to Essential Employee Travel Restriction Exemptions

**From:** Russell, Amanda  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:47 PM  
**To:** Tilyard, Scott (DPEM)  
**Cc:** Semmens, James (DPEM); Rutherford, Bob  
**Subject:** RE: Application for Specified Person status - Anthony Brown - Clause 8

**Importance:** High

Evening Scott

Further to your email request this morning, I attach below supporting information from Bob Rutherford, Deputy Secretary Industry and Business Development that provides further detail on the key aspects of Anthony's application for exemption and the criteria that we consider applies. I trust this provides the information you are seeking. Should there be any further context that would be useful in the determination please let myself or Bob know and we will address ASAP.

Best

Mandy

**Amanda Russell** | Deputy Secretary  
Business Services | Department of State Growth  
4 Salamanca Place, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 536, Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: (03) 6165 5161  
[www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH:



Released under RTI



Help stop the spread of Covid-19  
Download the COVIDSafe app

# COVIDSAFE

I write in support of the application by Anthony Brown, General Manager of the West Coast Railway (WCWR) for Specified Person status. I believe he qualifies for consideration under the Schedule of Specified Persons direction

(3a) as he is involved in the management of transport of persons and freight. The railway also connects to other transport services for persons (coaches, buses and cruise boats). Freight operations are conducted to the Teepookana plateau for forestry and beekeeping industries. Preparing for resumption is also of great importance to the tourism industry and associated economic activity. The General Manager is responsible for critical maintenance and major repairs to the railway infrastructure (4b). The WCWR GM role is unique in requiring a unusual blend of specialist skills, that is, both the commercial skills to run a tourism business and sufficient technical capacity to manage railway infrastructure. The service is time critical to have the railway ready for resumption. Past recruitment processes have demonstrated this combination is not available in Tasmania to the requisite level.(4a).

I would emphasise the following risks that need the GM's presence on site in Queenstown to be effectively managed:

1. As a Ministerial Corporation the Minister is directly responsible for all matters to do with operations under the legislation but is not in a position to exercise control at the site.
2. The managerial structure does not make provision for the employment of support of sufficient calibre to act on site in the role of General Manager for more than a couple of weeks.
3. While the railway is currently closed to the public, major engineering operations are under way both in the workshop and for the replacement of condemned track in difficult terrain that need careful planning, oversight and management on site.
4. Industrial relations on site with a non-state service workforce are currently under stress because of anxiety over Covid 19 and implementing the additional workplace safety requirements of the present situation;
5. Day to day budget management with ongoing costs no revenue and as government business no access to job keeper support.
6. The need to proceed and risk manage the engineering works planned prior to the virus to ensure the railway is in a position to reopen once travel restrictions are removed. This a traction is vital to the tourism industry on the West Coast. Once track Implementation requires on the spot decision making capacity to resolve the many technical and commercial issues that are daily encountered. At present this is causing delay and in some cases errors that have to be rectified. It will soon be a critical risk once the track work commences.

I note that as these risks would have to be addressed by the Minister were they to manifest without him able to point to on site management, possibly taking away his attention from matters of critical state importance.

**Bob Rutherford** | Deputy Secretary  
Industry and Business Development | Department of State Growth  
Salamanca Building Parliament Square, 4 Salamanca Place, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 536, Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: (03) 6166 3495  
[www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH:



**From:** Russell, Amanda

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:33 PM

**To:** Tilyard, Scott <Scott.Tilyard@police.tas.gov.au>

**Cc:** Semmens, James (DPEM) <James.Semmens@police.tas.gov.au>; Rutherford, Bob <Bob.Rutherford@stategrowth.tas.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Application for Specified Person status - Anthony Brown - Clause 8

Hi Scott

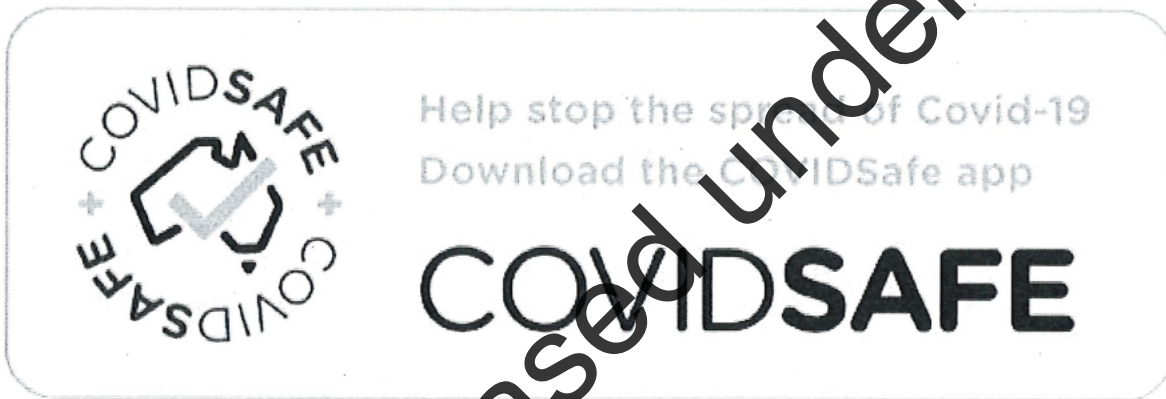
Anthony is essential to the operations of the Railway and has alternative accommodation that he can safely occupy on the West Coast. He is also correct in identifying that he has a wide span of control for the Railway, and there is critical rail infrastructure upgrades underway and the importance of the Railway to the overall recovery efforts in the Region. This is the primary requirement for him to spend a period onsite. Anthony would also be able to effectively social distance in the workplace and would responsibly adhere to any requirements .

Best

Mandy

**Amanda Russell** | Deputy Secretary  
Business Services | Department of State Growth  
4 Salamanca Place, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 536, Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: (03) 6165 5161  
[www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au](http://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au)

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH COURAGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH:**



Released under RTI