

Star Group acknowledges the need to answer the below queries employees may have around the Greater Sydney Construction Industry Close Down until 30 July 2021.

<p>What is the Greater Sydney Construction Industry Close Down and Fairfield, Liverpool and Canterbury-Bankstown LGA Restrictions?</p>	<p>On Saturday, 17 July 2021, the NSW Government announced tougher restrictions on Greater Sydney, including a pause on construction. The following restrictions come into effect from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:01am on Monday, 19 July 2021 – a pause on all construction work (except urgent emergency work; and • 12.01am from Sunday 18 July 2021 – residents of the Fairfield, Liverpool and Canterbury-Bankstown local government areas cannot leave their respective local government areas unless they work in health and emergency services. <p>These NSW Government restrictions will be in place until at least 11:59pm on Friday 30, July 2021 (which may be subject to change).</p>
<p>What type of leave can I apply for during the Construction Close Down?</p>	<p>Star Group will make available per the Fair Work Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to accrued RDO's • Access to accrued annual leave • Access to accrued long service leave (if applicable) • Agreed leave without pay • An Agreed combination of the above <p>This is your choice and if you do wish to access these entitlements, please complete this Construction Close Down Leave Nomination Form.</p>
<p>Do I still accrue my entitlements during the Construction Close Down?</p>	<p>During the close down, you will continue to accrue annual leave and personal/carer's leave entitlements as usual.</p>
<p>When do I come back to work? How will I know?</p>	<p>At this stage, it is expected that you will be required to return to work in the week commencing 2 August 2021, however, please note that you will be contacted to confirm the end of the closure period and your requirement to return to work.</p> <p>There is an exception for urgent construction work which may be required at a site. If you are required to undertake any urgent construction work during the closure period we will notify and liaise with you accordingly.</p>
<p>Can I collect my tools from my project site?</p>	<p>Security is being deployed to each site by the client. However, Star Group will liaise with each builder on Monday 19 July 2021 about individuals collecting tools as we haven't been able to get an answer to this to date. We will advise you all in due course.</p>
<p>Financial Support on Offer from the Government?</p>	<p>New South Wales Government will be offering emergency pandemic support payments to eligible persons and you may be eligible for the COVID-19 Disaster Payment. Employees who lost income during the COVID-19 restrictions in Greater Sydney from June 2021 can apply for COVID-19 Disaster Payment. Learn more COVID-19 Disaster Payment. Further information about the COVID-19 Disaster Payment is also available on the Services Australia website.</p>

<p>Employee Assistance Programs – are they available during the Construction Close Down?</p>	<p>Yes. Assure Programs is available for all Star Group employees during the Construction Close Down period. The below types of assistance are available during a stand down period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential psychological counselling (conducted at Assure Program's discretion) • Wellbeing coaching • Financial Coaching • Holistic Support Services. <p>These services are available for Star Group employees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Should an employee wish to gain access to these services, they are welcome to call 1800 808 304 or visiting www.assureprograms.com.au</p>
<p>Can I receive MERT payments during the Construction Close Down?</p>	<p>Employee may have payments made to their MERT account. To be eligible for a claim to gain access to these funds, the employee must have ceased employment with Star Group.</p> <p>A \$2,000 Stand Down payment (taxable) is available from MERT to assist with hardship, followed by a second \$2,000 payment five weeks later. Access from www.mert.com.au or call MERT directly on 1800 023 692.</p> <p>Employees with a MERT fund are responsible for making applications if they wish to make a claim.</p> <p>Any hardship payment made in advance of any redundancy payment will reduce any employer's obligation when a redundancy claim is made (current as of 14/07/2021).</p>
<p>Can I take redundancy during the Construction Close Down?</p>	<p>Voluntary redundancies are currently not available at Star Group.</p> <p>Should Star Group consider redundancies, formal communication will be made to employees from executive management.</p>

Should you have additional questions or queries, please contact the COVID-19 Response Team at covid.help@star-group.com.au.