



Moving targets are impossible

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Victoria is in a terrible state of affairs. As each day passes, the failure of the Government to properly justify its lockdown becomes harder to bear.

Job losses pile up as business owners downsize, relocate or walk away. With that comes heartbreak, fear, depression and anger for both employers and employees.

Sunday's so-called roadmap sets impossible moving targets. It puts Victoria at the top of the global lockdown ladder. It provides no hope, no certainty, no optimism. Businesses which had operated safely for months viewed the distant reopening targets as farcical. The lockdown rules are almost incoherent actually.

It became a farce because consultation has been poor and left to public servants with little authority. Ministers, let alone the Premier, have been absent from formal consultations. Businesses have been treated as pests not partners.

If the original six-week lockdown was "a guess" and the new lockdown is open to constant review, what certainty does that give business to plan, invest and stay the course? None.

Nobody has seen the detail behind the decision. Pandemic experts locally and globally are appalled at what has happened.

The sad reality is industry and their employees are paying the price for the Government's failed testing, tracing and quarantine regimes.

We desperately need a circuit breaker that will allow the government to withdraw its roadmap to nowhere. Consultation is the key and the Premier and his Senior Ministers need to belatedly start consulting directly with business leaders to get the whole picture of the damage done.

In the meantime, the strain on workers is immense. Doctors report empty clinics. Imaging equipment to help locate cancers or identify heart issues stands idle. The health consequences are enormous.

The more the police stand over our elderly in parks, knock down doors, fine people for exercising for "too long" the more resentment and civil disobedience grows.

Meanwhile, outside Victoria life goes on. NSW's health system copes. People go to work. Schools are open and restaurants and cafes welcome customers. Sydney is, remember, really just the same as Melbourne. It is not Venus and Mars. Melbourne does not have the monopoly on community transmission.

We need no more talk of lockdowns or third waves. We need hope, optimism, good management, generosity and creativity from the government.

Industry warned as COVID hit and we approached the economic cliff that we had a choice to either pull up short, fall over or jump off.

On Sunday, Victorians sadly were pushed. It's not too late to break the fall.