



Hi S+SNZ

Wherever you are in New Zealand or around the world, we hope that you're keeping safe and that you're managing the impact of COVID-19 in your household.

These are unprecedented times for us all and, as we enter the second week of lock-down, we wanted to reach out to you as a member of the Survey and Spatial NZ family to check in on how you are doing. It's obvious that no-one is untouched by this crisis – but many are starting to find innovative ways to continue to deliver their services under these difficult circumstances.

For some in our S+SNZ community, there has been the ability to almost seamlessly carry on with work from home. For others, this has tipped work on its head, and the experience is very different. Where work isn't possible, we encourage you to use the time to grow your skills, continue your professional development, reach out to your network, help others, and stay connected.

That's certainly true of us here at S+SNZ. We've implemented our business continuity plan and (as much as is possible) it's business as (not so) usual. Our fantastic team are working remotely and continuing to provide members' services in spite of the limitations. For example - next Monday and Tuesday we have seven young professionals sitting their Professional Examinations through Zoom video meetings. We wish these candidates the best in trying circumstances.

Through the amazing work of Jan Lawrence, we've also managed to publish the latest edition of the quarterly magazine [Surveying+Spatial](#) - just in time before the lock-down

came into place. Look for Toby Stoff's article on his quest to save Baldwin Street's 'steepest street' record in this edition!

There is a huge proliferation of material and information relating to COVID-19 and no doubt your inbox has already been overwhelmed by some of it so we've tried to consolidate some of the information and links that we believe will be most useful to you as one of our members.

## **Overview**

### **We should expect to be at level 4 for more than four weeks?**

The Prime Minister was very deliberate in her language that it was a minimum of four weeks – so we should plan in the expectation that this time-frame will be extended.

### **In the future, the alert level may not be uniform across the country?**

We would expect some regions may have their level downgraded before others so think about how this may impact your operations and your people.

### **While we may downgrade from level 4 at some point, don't expect things to go back to normal anytime soon.**

We think we will need to get used to operating at levels 2 and 3 for a long time – and even if things at home return to relative normality, international travel will be all but gone for many months, and possibly even a couple of years.

**Essential Services** - surveying and spatial services are currently not listed as essential services however we are working with other organisations to raise the importance of data capture as a means to either continue works or as an enabler of future design works.

In the meantime we are directing queries to the [COVID19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) website which provides up-to-date and relevant information for individuals and businesses.

### **Information on 'Shovel Ready' Infrastructure Projects being sought - Crown**

*Infrastructure Projects* has a recently announced initiative underway. A reference group has been established and tasked by government to prepare a list of infrastructure projects/programmes that are ready for construction and could, if the Government deemed it appropriate, be deployed as part of a stimulatory package. The background, project criteria and submission information are available at [www.crowninfrastructure.govt.nz/iirg/](https://www.crowninfrastructure.govt.nz/iirg/).

## **NZ Government information**

- [www.covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz) is the website that has everything you need to know about COVID-19 in one place. Go there to learn the simple steps you can take against

the virus and slow its spread. The site includes resources and information relating to government action, alert levels, obtaining updates, help and advice.

### **Information for businesses**

- **COVID-19 leave payments and wage subsidy**  
The *COVID-19 Leave Payment Scheme and Wage Subsidy Scheme* announced last week is there to support people who may suffer financially during self-isolation. Find out more at [Employment New Zealand](#).
- NZ Government [guidance for businesses](#).
- Live news updates from [Radio NZ](#).

### **Support for Surveyors and Spatial Professionals**

We have spoken to a range of members who have approached the situation in different ways, and for the most part it is encouraging to see the new approaches, ideas, and actions that people are taking - showing adaptability and resilience to the environment we find ourselves in. It is also heartening to see how our S+SNZ community has rallied with offers of help and support. We appreciate all of you who have come forward with a willingness to assist others through this time. We've been contacted by a couple of member firms who are keen to assist members who might be struggling. These firms are willing to help you by talking through your issues and challenges and offering advice and counsel.

If this would be useful to you – please get into touch with us directly, [admin@surveyspatialnz.org](mailto:admin@surveyspatialnz.org) and we'll put you in contact with a firm as near to you as possible.

### **The science of numbers – and why we need the lockdown**

See the spread in this [Coronavirus Map](#) developed by John Hopkins Centre for Systems Science and Engineering.



- 
- Read [Marc Daalder's article](#) explaining in detail why we are in lockdown.
- This [paper](#) released by the University of Otago shows what could happen if NZ does not take action.

### **Keeping yourself and your family healthy**

For some, as well, there is a measure of concern or anxiety which is completely understandable, and we encourage you wherever possible to reach out to your community in the 'virtual space' or via phone for a conversation. For those with teams, remember that they may well be feeling anxious or isolated too. There are some excellent support resources available around managing remote teams, which we will share on S+SNZ's LinkedIn page (and we encourage you to share any useful resources through our social media channels as well). Here are some useful links:

- The [Ministry of Health](#) provides advice on caring for yourself and others who have, or may have, COVID-19.
- The NZ Mental Health Foundation's site is also a good source for information - [Looking after mental health and well-being during COVID-19](#).
- [Health Anxiety Fact Sheet](#) (compiled by Benestar).

Please stay safe and well.

Regards

Kat Salm, President & Ashley Church, CE.