



21 April 2020

Dear Colleagues

Judging by recent news reports, Australia is doing well in managing the COVID-19 pandemic – in the last 24 hours there were only 13 new cases reported. It is encouraging that the Government is looking at ways to lift restrictions and restart the economy, but it is clear that we will not return to “normal life” any time soon.

At Knauf we will keep following the regulations closely, and for the foreseeable future we will continue with the social distancing measures we have put in place at all sites. Thank you for your continued cooperation!

Financial outlook

The pandemic is set to have a significant effect on the global and Australian economy. The construction industry will undoubtedly be hit hard too, and it is forecast that building activity may fall as much as 20-30%. We are developing plans to prepare for this downturn which will involve seeking ways to eliminate unnecessary costs and reduce waste. At the same time we are working hard to maximise our sales – being ‘Our Customers’ Best Supplier’ has never been more critical!

We appreciate everyone’s efforts, support and cooperation as we manage through this decline and prepare for the inevitable upturn when it comes. I will provide more information on our plans to ensure we all get through this downturn together in my next letter.

Working safely

The health and safety of our employees remain our top priority and we are always looking at ways to make our sites even safer. We have now received delivery of 10 no-touch thermometers in addition to several thousand dust and surgical masks. Temperature screening facilities will be implemented at all sites over the coming week.

The **World Day for Safety and Health at Work** will be celebrated on 28 April. In response to COVID-19, the theme of this day has been changed to “Stop the pandemic: safety and health at work can save lives”.

In a build-up to the day we will circulate material and updates relating to work safety, including working safely from home. We will distribute information via email, the notice boards and the special employee home page <https://knauf.solutions/news/knauf-employees>.

Please keep safe and healthy!

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gavin'.

Gavin Burton
Knauf Australia Managing Director