



Government  
of South Australia

**Hon Tim Whetstone MP**  
Minister for Primary Industries  
and Regional Development

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eA190414

Ms Jenni Mitton  
General Manager  
Willunga Farmers Market  
PO Box 652  
WILLUNGA SA 5172

Email: [manager@willungafarmersmarket.com.au](mailto:manager@willungafarmersmarket.com.au)

Dear Ms <sup>JENNI</sup> Mitton,

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 March 2020 regarding the essential services status of farmers markets under coronavirus restrictions. I acknowledge the unprecedented global situation surrounding coronavirus is providing significant and varying challenges across our sectors.

Upon receiving your correspondence, I asked my department, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, to respond to you with the latest advice to support your organisation during this time.

Farmers markets are classified as essential food supply as distinct from other public gatherings or events and may continue to trade mindful of all other public health recommendations. These recommendations include and are not limited to the following:

- Supplying hand sanitizers or handwashing facilities at each stall at the market;
- Ensuring social distancing if 1.5 metres per person between shoppers outdoors;
- Limiting of payments to a 'tap and go' cashless purchasing;
- Reduced shopping duration of typically less than 30 minutes outdoors; and
- Signage to inform and encourage shoppers of the need to adopt new procedures.

Agriculture and the food supply chain is definitely considered an essential service by the Marshall Liberal Government. The Government is ensuring the needs of the agriculture (food and fibre) supply chain are considered when the South Australian Police Commissioner issues directions under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*. Instead of making 'essential' industry declarations, the SA Police Commissioner is issuing emergency declarations as to which businesses are *required to close* (and associated conditions) where there is judged to be a health risk in relation to limiting the spread of coronavirus. The full list of these services can be found at: <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations/business-closures>.

The Marshall Liberal Government will continue to support the agriculture and food sector to get through this crisis and come out stronger at the other end. If there is anything further I can assist with to help your organisation manage through this current crisis, please contact my Agriculture, Food and AgTech Adviser, Mr Brad Perry, by phone on 0447 036 559 or by email: [bradley.perry@sa.gov.au](mailto:bradley.perry@sa.gov.au).

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me on this very important matter.

Yours sincerely

Hon Tim Whetstone MP  
**MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES  
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

13 / 5 / 2020

