Today the main announcement on lockdowns was in the ACT.

However, as you are no doubt aware from media reports, stay-at-home restrictions were put in place last night for the Yass Valley Council area for the next two weeks. A case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the area yesterday (Monday), following a recent positive sewage detection.

This should be also a reminder for those living or working in the Riverina and other areas of regional NSW not in lockdown to stay vigilant and be prepared for immediate changes to the Public Health Orders.

**ACT key messages**

       ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr announced that the ACT lockdown will be extended for four more weeks until Friday, October 15. A further mid-point review of the Public Health Orders will be conducted in a fortnight. Further details on the ACT’s roadmap out of lockdown can be read here: [ACT’s Pathway Forward - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2021/acts-pathway-forward)

       Mr Barr also announced some additional easing of the rules for small businesses (eg real estate inspections) and increased outdoor recreational activities will be allowed such as social golf, tennis and rowing. The full rules can be read here: [Lockdown in the ACT - COVID-19](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/act-status-and-response/lockdown?utm_source=Popularlinks&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=Popular%20links)

       Small businesses who are currently permitted to have two people provide click-and-collect services will now be allowed to have up to five people in the business at one time or one person per four square metres.

       He also announced additional ACT Government support for businesses and individuals. This includes an increase in the utilities concession to $1000 for the 31,000 most vulnerable households. There will be additional emergency response funding for mental health, emergency relief and other community services. More details can be found here: [Additional financial support during lockdown - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (act.gov.au)](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2021/additional-financial-support-during-lockdown)

       The ACT Government also released their plan for the return of schools. Year 12, given they have had access to priority vaccines, will return from start of Term 4 (Tuesday, October 5) and Year 11 will return from October 18. Preschool to Year 10 will continue school from home until at least Week 4 of Term 4.