

Appendix two – Chronology 2020–2021

Date	Detail
1 July 2019 – 31 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019–20 bush fire season and State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) stood up in late 2019 to support the response.
25 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First case of COVID-19 detected in New South Wales.
30 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premier announced inquiry into 2019–20 bush fire season.
3 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First COVID-19 related death in New South Wales.
15 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Public Health Order to limit movement and gathering (cancelling events with more than 500 people). Commenced on 16 March 2020.
17 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEOCON (Commissioner of the NSW Police Force) is appointed incident controller, and given combat agency Responsibility.
23 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New restrictions following the decision by the National Cabinet in which non-essential activities and businesses would be temporarily shut down. While schools would continue to remain open, parents were encouraged to keep their children at home.
8 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border closure with Victoria - development of the Permit System to allow for essential movement of goods and services across the border.
10 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crossroads Hotel cluster emerges in Casula, this cluster lead to several other outbreaks of COVID-19 in the New South Wales community.
20 July 2020-31 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole of NSW Government Response to COVID-19 exercise undertaken - desktop exercises in four emergency management regions to examine and test existing emergency management arrangements.
24 August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry publicly released with the NSW Government accepting all recommendations (report dated 31 July 2020).
30 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all community outbreaks of COVID-19 in New South Wales contained.
19 December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay-at-home orders were issued for the Northern Beaches due to an increase in cases.
21 December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Berala cluster emerges - close contacts isolated with positive sewage surveillance in Liverpool and Glenfield. Persons from this cluster were impacted until at least 28 January (14 days post last community exposure).
31 March 2021 – 5 April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Order to impose restrictions on certain gatherings (including music festivals) in the LGAs of Ballina Shire, Byron Shire, the City of Lismore and Tweed Shire.
5 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First case of Delta identified in metropolitan Sydney, urgent investigations and contact tracing commenced immediately. No further transmissions detected as a result of this case.
6 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Health Order requiring wearing of masks on public transport and in airports issued.
24 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kappa outbreak in Melbourne with stay-at-home orders in place for people in New South Wales who had been in Victoria. From 27 May this extended to all of Victoria.

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3 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved a review of the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) (in response to recommendation 62 of the NSW Bushfire Inquiry). This review was considered by the SEMC at the 2 December 2021 meeting The SEMC approved a Functional Area Joint Review Project Plan (to address recommendation 76 of the Bushfire Inquiry). This review was considered by the SEMC at its 2 June 2022 meeting.
9 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed case in a QLD resident who travelled from Victoria via New South Wales stopping in Gillenbah, Forbes, Dubbo, Coonabarabran and Moree. NSW Health identified a number of close and casual contact venues and increased testing and surveillance. No local cases eventually identified.
16 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First confirmed and traced positive case of community transmission.¹
19 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual infected in the eastern suburbs attends a social event in the Liverpool LGA.
23 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government introduced restrictions across Greater Sydney said to apply for one week: five visitors to home; masks in non-residential indoor settings; some restrictions on hospitality venues; limits on dance and gym classes; reintroduction of one person per four square metre rule for weddings, funerals and restaurants; 50% limit on outdoor dining; public transport green dot system reintroduced.
24 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government communicated essential reasons to leave homes for New South Wales residents. New South Wales residents were only allowed to leave their homes for four essential reasons: shopping for food or other essential goods and services; medical care or compassionate needs (people could leave home to have a COVID-19 vaccination unless they have been identified as a close contact); exercise outdoors in groups of 10 or fewer; essential work or education, where they could not work or study from home.
26 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Lockdown' of Greater Sydney: Introduction of stay-at-home restrictions along with closure of certain premises and limit on outdoor gatherings to ten people for four LGAs – Waverley, Woollahra, Randwick, City of Sydney – midnight ('Lockdown' of 4 LGAs). Introduction of restrictions for Greater Sydney region including work from home and stay-at-home restrictions, closure of premises, limits on outdoor gatherings to ten people, restrictions for regional New South Wales on movement and gathering (five household visitors, class sizes of 20, no singing/dancing, 1 per 4 m²), and masks in indoor non-residential premises for all New South Wales ('Lockdown' of Greater Sydney).

¹ There was an earlier case in May 2021 where NSW Health was not able to trace a potential case of community transmission of Delta. The positive case had not been in hotel quarantine.

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9 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional restrictions in Greater Sydney – masks in indoor common property areas (example lifts and lobbies), restrict ability to enter Greater Sydney for exercise or obtaining supplies that can be obtained outside of Greater Sydney, funerals capped at ten mourners (from 11 July), one person per household per day shopping, exercise in LGA or within ten km of home.
14 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special directions for affected areas and affected workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> surveillance testing requirements for: 'affected workers' leaving their LGA for work (at this point authorised workers in Fairfield LGA - test every 3 days) and 'affected workers' in Greater Sydney going more than 50 km from Greater Sydney for work (test every seven days). Testing requirements commenced on 17 July for Fairfield LGA and 19 July for Greater Sydney. Extension of restrictions in New South Wales and Greater Sydney for another two weeks.
17 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional restrictions on affected workers with affected areas expanded to Liverpool and Canterbury-Bankstown LGAs. Authorised workers were defined. For other parts of Greater Sydney, strengthened work from home requirements, additional mask requirements, ability for indoor trades to operate, closure of non-critical retail in Sydney, carpooling prohibited, non-essential retail to operate as click and collect and food services were to only offer takeaway options
17 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction industry paused for two weeks.
18 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South West Metropolitan Regional Emergency Operations Centrestood up.
19 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Health engages the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to develop a Microstrategy approach focused on tailored responses for high risk LGAs.
20 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special direction for Regional New South Wales. Stay-at-home orders extended to regional New South Wales LGAs of Blayney, Cabonne and Orange. Order commenced on 21 July 2021.
24 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumberland and Blacktown LGAs added to the list of affected areas. This restricted the ability to leave the LGA for work unless they are an authorised worker. However, no additional testing requirements were mandated.
28 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW Government announced a four-week extension of the Greater Sydney lockdown which also applied to the Blue Mountains, Shellharbour, Central Coast and Wollongong LGAs.
28 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campbelltown, Georges River and Parramatta LGAs added to list of affected areas. This restricted the ability to leave the LGA for work unless they are an authorised worker. Order commenced on 29 July 2021.
29 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The surveillance testing requirement for the Fairfield LGA was removed. The testing requirements for various LGAs were able to be set by a notice of the Chief Health Officer. Testing requirements remained in place. 10km rule changed to 5km for 'affected' LGAs (only for exercising and essential shopping). Order commenced on 30 July 2021.

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31 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Delta Order names eight LGAs as affected areas (Blacktown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Georges River, Parramatta). Only authorised workers allowed to leave the area for work. Testing requirements put in place – every 72 hours for Canterbury-Bankstown for all authorised workers, Fairfield and Cumberland – every 72 hours for aged care and health workers. Pause on construction lifted but limited in the eight listed LGAs.
8 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional requirements for 12 suburbs of concern. Selected postcodes from the Penrith LGA were added to LGAs of concern – no special testing requirements for authorised workers.
11 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended certain restrictions to the Dubbo Regional LGA. This was also extended to Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Narromine, Walgett and Warren LGAs.
12 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central West and Far West New South Wales REOC stood up Stay-at-home orders extended to Bayside, Burwood, and Strathfield LGAs.
14 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended the Greater Sydney stay-at-home orders to the rest of the State Reduced the distance a person is permitted to travel outside their LGA for food, exercise or outdoor recreation from 10 to 5km
16 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced the distance a person is permitted to travel outside their LGA for food, exercise or outdoor recreation from 10 to 5km. Outdoor recreation removed as reason to leave residence in a declared area. Test and Isolate Support Payment (TISP) launched for those in areas of concern.
23 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required retail premises to conduct click and collect or delivery only in LGAs of concern. Imposed curfew in areas of concern between 9pm and 5am. Exercise limited to one hour per day in areas of concern. Classes, lectures or other teaching or assessment sessions moved online in areas of concern.
27 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back to school plan announced.
30 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pillar 8 supporting Aboriginal communities in the Microstrategy stood up. Additional support for Aboriginal Communities with the COVID-19 Community Response Plan opened.
9 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Government announced the roadmap to freedom for the fully vaccinated.
15 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removed curfew in areas of concern.
27 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap to Recovery released by the NSW Government.
6 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% double vaccination target reached.
11 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All stay-at-home restrictions were removed across New South Wales.
17 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% double vaccination target reached.
18 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further relaxation of restrictions including allowing more visitors to people's houses, an increase to people gathering outdoors and ticketed events.
9 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% double vaccination rate achieved.