

Dear ARBS community

ARBS Exhibitions Ltd held an extraordinary board meeting today at 10am where it was agreed and decided that the ARBS 2020 exhibition scheduled to be held from 19-21 May 2020 will be postponed due to the COVID-19 virus.

Circumstances relating to the virus have triggered the postponement with the following concerns and effects playing a major role in our decision –

- ARBS exhibitions generally host around 10,000 – 12,000 participants, involving exhibitors, visitors, suppliers and contractor staff and we are concerned for the health, wellbeing and safety of all participants during what will be a challenging time for the whole country.
- Many international exhibitors have now limited or banned staff travel.
- A number of interstate exhibitors have now limited or banned interstate travel.
- It is likely that the Government will recommend or prevent major travel and movement and possibly limit large events if the virus continues to spread.
- Many companies and staff may be put into self isolation with the rate of spread of the virus at this stage unknown.
- A number of our seminar presenters have already flagged their intention to cancel any travel in the foreseeable future.
- These are only a few of the major factors that influenced our decision today.

The decision to postpone also presents the predicament of timing and venue availability to reschedule. Bearing in mind that many large events are all scrambling to postpone and move to alternate options either later this year or early next year, venue space is in limited supply. We are currently discussing our options with the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre and hope to be able to announce an alternative date for ARBS 2020 in the very near future.

We are very sorry that such a drastic measure has had to be implemented, and we will do everything we can to ensure the successful reschedule of the exhibition once a suitable date has been secured and hopefully once the threat of the virus has subsided.

Please be patient while we work through the issues and negotiate the logistics of the postponement with all concerned. More details, including the process and timelines of the postponement, will be provided as soon as feasibly possible. We understand you will have questions, some of which we may not have answers for as yet but please direct any queries you may have to our main email address [arbs@arbs.com.au](mailto:arbs@arbs.com.au).

Please stay well and we will be in touch again with more information soon.

Kind regards

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