



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS INDUSTRY WELCOMES INCLUSION IN COVID CRITICAL INDUSTRY LIST**

MONDAY, 24 JANUARY 2022, SYDNEY: The Australian Beverages Council (ABCL), representing the non-alcoholic drinks industry across our nation, welcomes the revision to the COVID critical industries list to include beverage manufacturing, announced yesterday by the Queensland Health Minister and which came into effect today.

“Beverage manufacturing is a vitally important industry in Queensland and supports almost 10,000 full-time jobs right across the state. For every single non-alcoholic drink manufacturing position there are nearly five more roles needed along the supply chain to support that one manufacturing job,” said ABCL CEO Geoff Parker. “The announcement yesterday by Minister D’Ath to add beverage manufacturing and its supply chain to the critical industries list means companies can ensure critical workers are on shift to keep bottling plants and support facilities open for business.”

“The inclusion also means that proudly Queensland-based drink manufacturers can continue to supply retail and convenience outlets with the wide range of drinks for consumption at home or on the go.”

Critical industries and essential workers will need rapid antigen tests to keep operations going and the Australian Beverages Council is urging all governments to ensure businesses can access supply after the current priority sectors of our communities have received theirs.

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