

Council recognises the pressure and uncertainty local businesses are experiencing right now. There is a whole of Government response to enabling local businesses to continue providing vital services to our communities and importantly helping them stay in business.

Our priority is making sure local businesses feel supported, are well informed and know where and how to get the best advice about funding and practical resources. Council's plan includes \$1.2 million in savings to local businesses, that offers the following:

#### **Waiving of small business fees**

Council is directly assisting small businesses struggling with financial uncertainty by waiving some of the fees and charges for approximately six months, effective from 25 March 2020:

- Environmental Health Inspection fees (no annual fees or first inspection fees) – (saving \$401,059)
- Fire Safety fees (no annual fees) (saving \$147,169)
- Outdoor Dining and Footpath Merchandising fees (no fees) (saving \$695,084)

#### **Flexible and pragmatic enforcement and compliance**

We are adopting a flexible and pragmatic approach to enforcement and compliance action. This will enable business operations to adapt to the changing consumer demand.

We aim to limit enforcement action to matters that are only of an imminent public or environmental safety risk, ensuring there is no increase to public risk and community impacts and expectations are managed. A dedicated planner has been allocated to respond to all business planning and compliance queries. Council's plan includes:

#### **Restaurants/ take away businesses**

We are allowing restaurants which don't currently have development consents to undertake a take away service to provide this service to the community.

Relaxing timed parking requirements to allow for increased take-away pickups in shopping areas.

#### **Supermarkets and food/ beverage premises**

We are not enforcing trading or delivery hours for food/beverage premises and grocery stores.

#### **Outdoor dining lease areas**

Due to current restrictions, outdoor dining fees are being suspended for a 6 month period with effect from 1 April 2020.

Affected business will not receive invoices from Council during this period.

To help the public understand and adhere to restrictions, please remove all furniture from outdoor dining areas. We appreciate your cooperation.

#### **Environmental Health Inspections**

We are waiving charges for Council's proactive routine inspection program that will continue fee-free.

Our Environmental Health Team will also continue to investigate urgent and critical matters relating to public health and environmental impact but they will not incur fees or charges outside of enforcement action.

### **Rates and Annual Charges Hardship Policy**

We are applying the Rates and Annual Charges Hardship Policy to help impacted eligible small business ratepayers and/or other ratepayers suffering financial hardship. This can provide payment arrangements and waive associated interest charges to help relieve the burden.

### **Actively co-ordinate business chambers and local networks**

We are supporting open and consistent communication and have committed to regular weekly meetings with our local Chambers of Commerce through digital platforms, this is in addition to using our existing channels to continue to work together in responding to this evolving situation.

### **Provide regular updates to our local businesses**

We encourage businesses to contact their relevant Chambers of Commerce and subscribe to Council's Business Newsletter by contacting [economy@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economy@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

### **Northern Beaches Chambers of Commerce**

Manly Business Chamber [manly.org.au](http://manly.org.au)

Warringah Chamber of Commerce [warringahchamber.com.au](http://warringahchamber.com.au)

Mona Vale Chamber of Commerce [monavalechamber.org](http://monavalechamber.org)

Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce [newportbeach.org.au](http://newportbeach.org.au)

Avalon Palm Beach Business Chamber [avalonpalmbeachbusinesschamber.com.au](http://avalonpalmbeachbusinesschamber.com.au)

With a growing database of local businesses, we will continue sharing information on COVID-19 support programs, health information for employees and customers, as well as how to access financial support in the Federal and state economic stimulus packages.

### **Assist to build digital capability of businesses through social channels/webinars**

With changes to the way we live and work that will flow onto the way we shop and spend, we will support local businesses to find new ways to connect with customers. Council's plan includes:

- Delivering social media and marketing workshops online
- Creating digital campaigns to promote shop local initiatives
- Establishing a series of webinars to assist businesses adapt to changing conditions.

### **Build on relationships with State Government Agencies**

Council will continue working with NSW State Government agencies to provide advice and support to our local businesses, including:

- Realise Business
- Office of the Small Business Commissioner
- ServiceNSW "Easy to do Business"

With local economic conditions changing rapidly, Council will continue to look at new ways we can connect with our business community and continue to provide support, ensuring we can scale-up our response, where necessary.

Visit our dedicated "Supporting Local Businesses" section on Council's website for more details.

## Government Business Stimulus Packages

### Federal Government

First package highlights:

- \$17.6 billion economic support package
- Increasing the instant asset write off
- Backing business investment by providing accelerated depreciation deductions
- Supporting apprentices and trainees
- Targeted support for Coronavirus-affected regions and communities

Second package highlights:

- \$66.1 billion second economic support package
- Up to \$100,000 for small and medium sized businesses, and not for-profits that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000 to help boost cashflow
- Accessing working capital under the Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme
- Providing temporary relief for financially distressed business temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand on a company and the time companies have to respond to statutory demands they receive.

### Federal Government helpline for businesses Impacted by COVID-19

**13 28 46, 7 days, 7am-11pm**

### NSW Government

The State Government announced a stimulus package to support businesses, which included:

- \$1.6 billion in tax relief for small businesses to help save jobs as the state braces for the dire economic impact of the virus.
- \$450 million to waive payroll tax for the next three months for businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 million.
- \$80 million to waive a range of fees and charges for small businesses including bars, cafes, restaurants and tradespeople.

### Realise Business

Realise Business is the NSW Government Business Connect provider for Northern, Eastern and Southern Sydney. The Realise team of advisors can provide general and specialist business advice in all areas of business. Their advisory team consists of specialists in the areas of business disruption, retail, marketing, digital, finance and hospitality just to name a few.

Realise is holding regular webinars and workshops, including an upcoming webinar on Small Business Interruption from COVID-19.