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3 APRIL 2020

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SPECIAL UPDATE

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE (COVID-19)

Dear friends and colleagues,

The Federal Government JobKeeper payment announced this week is designed to retain long-term casual, part-time and full-time employees – even if they have already been stood down. We encourage you to apply for this payment for your employees so that as the economy recovers there will be continuity for your business and security for your staff.

The Federal Government has also put evictions on hold over the next six months for commercial and residential tenants who are unable to meet their commitments due to the coronavirus.

The most up-to-date information for business support is available from the Australian government website www.business.gov.au, or by phone on 13 28 46. You can also find this information on the [NSW Small Business Commissioner's](#) website or by phone on 13 77 88.

We have been hearing from some sole traders who are unclear on what support is available. We've included a table in this newsletter outlining some of the Federal Government support available for employees, businesses and sole traders. We can also supply more information and links if you need further assistance.

If you need to understand how employees and employers can work together during this crisis, visit the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#) webpage. Find out about workplace entitlements and obligations if you're affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, including information on stand downs from work, working arrangements impacted by school closures, and pay and sick leave entitlements.

In this changing climate, it's more important than ever to have an online presence. We have created a free webinar series – held over three days on 9, 14 and 16

April – to help businesses get online quickly, cheaply and effectively. You'll find out how to set up a website and create and manage social media accounts to keep connected with customers. You will explore different strategies to determine which will work best for your business, understand your customer's needs and how to best implement your strategy. [Click here for details](#) and email Business Programs Officer Tracy Lee at leet@liverpool.nsw.gov.au if you're interested.

Council's City Economy team is working on a number of other initiatives and continues to reach out to local businesses to find out how we can help. If you haven't yet heard from us and would like to talk to a business support officer, please call 1300 36 2170 or drop us a line at business@liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Federal and NSW Governments assistance snapshot – more information available at www.business.gov.au.

Assistance	Sole trader	Employer	Employee
\$1500 JobKeeper payment	Yes	Yes – apply on behalf of employee	Yes – but employer must apply
Instant asset write-off up to \$150,000	Yes	Yes	
Increased and accelerated access to income support	Yes		Yes
Boosting cashflow for employers (\$20k-\$100k)		Yes	
Assistance for trainee or apprentice wages (up to \$21k)		Yes	
Early access to superannuation (up to \$20k)	Yes		Yes
Low and interest-free payment plans for tax debts	Yes	Yes	

Female Founders

[Grants](#) between \$25,000 and \$480,000 for female-founded start-ups to expand into domestic and global businesses. Applications close 14 April.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES SECTORS

STILL TRADING?

If you're a small business and still open at this time, use #LoveLivo when sharing updates on social media about your trading hours and any offers the community may find of interest. Council is encouraging to shop local and to use the #LoveLivo hashtag to share what's open.

BNI Spirit – a professional business networking and referral group - are meeting weekly via Zoom and share referrals among their members. Contact [the leadership team](#) to organise an invitation to join.

Thank you to the [Liverpool Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) for putting membership fees on hold and extending membership for the next three months.

To learn more and keep up to date with Liverpool City Council's response to the Coronavirus go to www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus.

RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

Western Sydney Business Centre is holding a free webinar on 14 April for restaurants and cafes – [COVID-19 Restaurant/Cafe Top Tips for Survival](#). The webinar will cover topics including dealing with trauma, accessing advice and resources, cutting costs, negotiating leases and managing resources.

LOGISTICS COMPANIES AND SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Are you a logistics company or moving goods service provider that has capability to support local businesses? Or are you an SME that is looking to pivot from B2B to B2C and need to find suppliers to help get your product to market?

Council is exploring solutions to connect local businesses which may be looking to deliver straight to their customers and logistics companies which would be interested in being connected. At this stage Council is seeking to understand demand.

Email Business Programs Officer Samantha Strachan at strachans@liverpool.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 36 2170 if you would like further information.

AGRICULTURE, DAIRY, HORTICULTURE EXPORTERS

Great news! The Federal Government has announced the relaunch of flights to deliver fresh food to China, Japan, Singapore and UAE. Exporters wishing to access the freight service can register their interest at:

haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/international-freight-assistance
or call the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on:
phone 6272 2444.

If you need any assistance with export opportunities, please email International Engagement and Trade Advisor, Brei Montgomery at:

montgomeryb@liverpool.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 36 2170.

EXPORTERS

The Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources is hosting a webinar featuring speakers from Austrade and Exportia – a specialist in exporting Australian technology to Europe. The webinar will explore the challenges that SMEs are facing and how to reconfigure business to take account of the new reality. [How exporters can survive Covid-19 and Prosper](#) will be held on 7 April.

SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGES

ICN has established a [portal](#) as a forum for managing supply chain shortages due to COVID-19, including identifying gaps in the supply chain and how they can facilitate local businesses that can help fill gaps.

The NSW Government would like to hear from suppliers that have the capacity to provide critical supplies, raw materials or manufacturing capability to produce critical supplies during the COVID-19 crisis. Supplies range from toilet paper to hand sanitiser. An emergency supplies [portal](#) is now open for registrations.

SILVER LININGS

Council's City Economy team is working on a number of initiatives and continues to reach out to local businesses to find out how we can help. If you haven't yet heard from us and would like to talk to a business support officer, please call 1300 36 2170 or drop us a line at business@liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

We are encouraged by the positive stories we continue to hear.

There has been an increase in demand for local bakeries and butchers, and a local online education provider has seen a 200 per cent increase in business in the past month. They are hiring more people to meet demand from teachers and schools, and in response are offering their program for free for the next six months.

If your business has a positive story to tell – please let us know at business@liverpool.nsw.gov.au. It's great to share good news in these times.

Please continue to support each other and keep yourselves, your employees and our community safe.

City Economy Team,
Liverpool City Council

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[Business Connect](#)

[Small Business Grant](#)

[Local Government Procurement](#)

[Western Sydney Airport](#)

[Tenderlink](#)



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