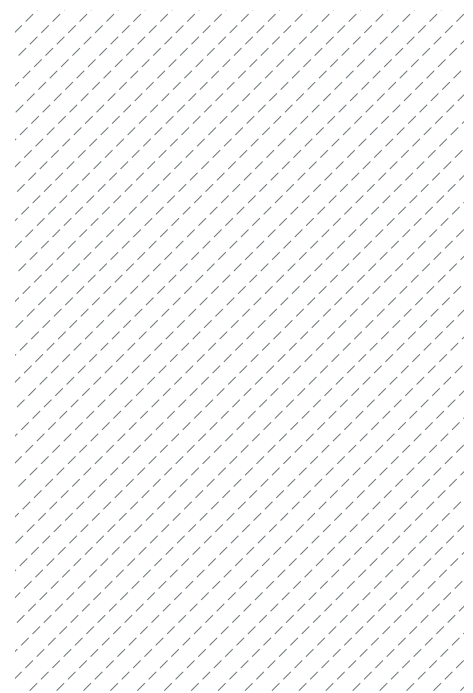


SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES IMPACTED BY COVID-19

LIVERPOOL
CITY
COUNCIL 

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Helping our community

Liverpool City Council recognises that many of our local businesses are facing challenging conditions as they adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We want to assure you that Liverpool remains a city of opportunity and Council is doing all it can to help guide our community through these unprecedented times.

At an extraordinary Council meeting in April we adopted a comprehensive resilience package to keep businesses going, people in jobs and ensure community members receive financial assistance to get through to the other side.

This assistance package has been prepared to help you understand the support available to you from Council, other levels of government and those within our wider network.

You can also find up-to-date information about Council's business support initiatives at www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/covid19business and subscribe to our Liverpool Business Connect e-newsletter for regular updates and opportunities direct to your inbox: www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/businessnews.

Throughout this period we are reaching out to local businesses to find out how we can help. If you haven't yet heard from us or have any questions about this package and would like to talk to a business support officer, please call **1300 36 2170** or email us: business@liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

Council support and opportunities

Council has implemented a range of initiatives to support businesses hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financial Assistance

Rate deferrals

Council has amended its hardship provisions to allow residential, business and farmland property owners to apply to delay rate payments. Anybody experiencing financial hardship regarding rates should contact Council on **1300 36 2170**.

Fees

Council has suspended health inspection fees until 30 June 2020 and outdoor dining permit fees until further notice. Businesses experiencing financial hardship regarding fees should contact Council on **1300 36 2170**.

Rent abatements

Rent abatements are now in place for many Council tenants. Respective tenants will be contacted by Council and made aware of these changes.

Debt recovery

Council has suspended debt-recovery actions until further notice.

Business Resilience Grant

Council's Business Resilience Grant, now concluded, was created to help businesses develop or strengthen their online strategy to ensure they can continue to operate during this challenging time and into the future. Businesses were able to apply for up to \$5000 each.



Operational assistance

Business Resilience Development Program

This eight-week program running from 3 August to 30 September will help small businesses to develop strategies to enhance their resilience. The program includes online workshops, one-on-one mentoring sessions and networking opportunities. Expressions of interest to take part closed on 27 July.

Free parking

A free parking permit system for on-street parking to support essential workers and local businesses in the Liverpool city centre that continued to trade (excluding Westfield Liverpool) was introduced in April and valid until 31 July 2020.

Business-to-consumer program

Council is building a digital marketplace in response to disrupted supply chains. We want to support businesses such as wholesalers to be able to supply to consumers more easily, matching them with other businesses that can help to 'fill in the gap', such as through delivery or logistics. For details visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/marketplace

Development changes

Developers have the option to defer up to 50 per cent of Section 7.11 payments for all applications received or approved until December 2020.

Council will also fast-track the determination of existing and new Development Applications to stimulate the regional economy and keep people working, prioritised by certain categories of development including:

- single dwellings, including alterations and additions;
- secondary dwellings;
- dual occupancies;
- affordable housing;
- manufacturing, warehousing, freight and logistics;
- commercial change of use;
- health-related premises, including aged care; and
- all minor modification applications.

#LoveLivo Support Local campaign

Council has developed a long-term Support Local campaign to encourage members of the Liverpool community to purchase goods, services and gift vouchers from local businesses.

If you're a small business and still open, you can be added to our 'Open for Business' directory which is regularly promoted to the community. For details and to get your business listed visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/weareopen

Businesses should also use the hashtag #LoveLivo when sharing updates on social media about trading hours and any offers the community may find of interest. Residents are being encouraged to shop local, and to follow along with and use the #LoveLivo hashtag to help spread the local love.

Do business with Council

Council regularly lists opportunities for suppliers, contractors, professional services and consultants to do business with Council through formal tenders. Businesses may also be able to get involved with Council events. For information, visit:

www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/business/doing-business-with-council



Financial assistance

Different levels of government have a range of assistance measures in place to help businesses financially impacted by COVID-19. The table below provides a snapshot of support available (at 8 July 2020).

GRANTS AND PAYMENTS			
Eligibility	Assistance	When	Provider details
Small businesses employing fewer than 20 full-time workers	<p>Small Business Recovery Grant Up to \$3000 grant for small businesses who have experienced at least 30% decline in turnover from March to July 2020 compared to the same two-week period in 2019.</p>	Applications due 16 August 2020	NSW Government: service.nsw.gov.au/ small-business-covid-19- recovery-grant-guidelines Contact Service NSW on 13 77 88
Sole traders, contractors, self-employed, casual workers	<p>Increased and accelerated income support The Government is temporarily expanding eligibility to income support payments and establishing a new, time-limited Coronavirus supplement to be paid at a rate of \$550 per fortnight. This supplement will be paid to both existing and new recipients of the eligible payment categories.</p>	6 months from 27 April 2020	Australian Government: business.gov.au/coronavirus Call 13 26 40
Businesses with a turnover of up to \$50 million	<p>SME guarantee scheme This will provide businesses with funding up to \$250,000 to meet immediate cash flow needs, by further enhancing lenders' willingness and ability to provide credit.</p>	Until September 2020	Australian Government: business.gov.au/coronavirus Call 13 28 46 or speak to your financial institution
Businesses and non-profit entities that employ staff	<p>Temporary cashflow support Employers will receive a payment equal to 100 per cent of their salary and wages withheld, with the maximum payment being increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and the minimum payment increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000.</p> <p>An additional payment is also being introduced equal to the total of all of the Boosting Cash Flow for Employers payments received. This means that eligible businesses will receive at least \$20,000 up to a total of \$100,000 under both payments.</p>	Throughout 2020	Australian Government: business.gov.au/coronavirus Call 13 28 46
Small businesses employing fewer than 20 full time workers who retain an apprentice or trainee	<p>Assistance for apprentice and trainee wages Employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage.</p> <p>Employers will be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$21,000 per eligible apprentice or trainee (\$7,000 per quarter).</p>	Applications due 31 December 2020	Australian Government: business.gov.au/coronavirus

TAX SAVINGS, CHANGES TO FEES & CHARGES

Eligibility	Assistance	When	Provider details
Businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 million	Payroll tax waiver Businesses will save a quarter of their annual payroll tax bill in FY 2019-20	For final quarter 2019-2020	NSW Government: service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/covid-19-help-small-businesses Contact Service NSW on 13 77 88
Sole traders, businesses	Instant Asset Write-off Lifted from \$30,000 to \$150,000	Until 31 December 2020	Australian Government: ato.gov.au/coronavirus Call 13 28 46
Businesses struggling to meet tax obligations	Backing Business Investment Ability to deduct 50 per cent of the cost of an eligible asset on installation, with existing depreciation rules applying to the balance of the asset's cost.	Until 30 June 2021	Australian Government: business.gov.au/coronavirus Call 13 28 46
Affected industries currently include: tourism, education, agriculture	Assistance for affected regions, communities, industries The Government has set aside an initial \$1 billion allocation to support those regions, communities and industries that have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of the Coronavirus.	Government will manage through existing program structure	Australian Government: business.gov.au/coronavirus Call 13 28 46

Employer obligations and workplace law

The NSW Small Business Commissioner website – smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au – provides a wealth of information about:

- Your employer obligations;
- Managing employee leave;
- Business contingency planning; and
- Consumer rights.

This website also provides up-to-date information of which 'non-essential' businesses have been restricted from trading by the Australian and NSW Governments to protect the community, with links to financial support.

Visit the Fair Work Ombudsman website – coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au – for specific information about COVID-19 and workplace laws, including:

- Information on stand-downs from work;
- Working arrangements impacted by school closures; and
- Pay and sick leave entitlements.



Business advice and recruitment

Business advice

If you would like personal support, a Business Connect Advisor can help you with strategies for how best to navigate your business through this period. Advisors speak languages other than English including Arabic, Vietnamese and Chinese

To book a free advisory session through the NSW Business Connect program and connect with an advisor, email Council's Business Programs Officer, Tracy Lee, at LeeT@liverpool.nsw.gov.au

Recruitment and talent

While many businesses have been adversely affected by COVID-19 and are reducing their workforces, there are some areas of the economy which have an increased demand for workers.

If you need help hiring someone during this period, look no further than Council's new jobs portal where you can easily list your vacancies and have them promoted to Council's growing online community. For details visit

www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/covid19business

Alternatively, visit the Federal Government's Jobs Hub website for support in setting up your workforce:

www.dese.gov.au/covid-19/jobs-hub

Training and skills development

Council resources

Webinars

In mid-April Council hosted a free webinar series to help businesses get online quickly, cheaply and effectively so they can continue to reach existing and new customers. You can watch recordings of the webinar series on our YouTube channel.

Visit www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au/covid19business for up-to-date information about learning resources from Council to support your business.

Lynda

Liverpool City Library members have free access to Lynda, an online learning portal created by LinkedIn which features thousands of courses that could help you improve your technical, creative and professional business tools. Visit the Lynda learning portal – www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=liverpool.nsw.gov.au – and login with your library card number and pin to start learning.

To become a member of Liverpool City Library for free, visit mylibrary.liverpool.nsw.gov.au.

Other resources

TAFE NSW is offering fee-free online short courses to help the community make use of their time in isolation. You can learn practical administration or business skills, improve your leadership performance or enhance your digital impact. Visit www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free-short-courses for details.

Other organisations in Council's network which run regular webinars and workshops to support businesses include:

- Economic Development Australia – www.edaaustralia.com.au
- Western Sydney Business Centre – wsbusiness.com.au/training
- Western Sydney Business Connection – www.wsbc.org.au/events
- Business Connect – business-connect-register.industry.nsw.gov.au
- Business.gov.au – www.business.gov.au/Events-and-training

Health resources

Federal Government Apps and Tools

Council recommends you refer to the Federal Government's online resources for up-to-date information relating to COVID-19.

Download the official Federal Government Coronavirus Australia App to stay up to date with official information, health advice, current data and links to Federal and State Government support.

The Federal Government's COVIDSafe App has been developed to help speed up contacting people exposed to COVID-19. It is voluntary to use. Downloading the app is something you can do to protect you, your family and friends and save the lives of other Australians.

For further information and links to download visit www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools

COVID-19 health data and resources

If your business is open, it is your duty to keep your employees and the community safe.

Visit the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au for up-to-date health information about novel coronavirus (COVID-19). There you'll also find a range of posters for download with facts and tips on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in English and other languages.

Mental health support

We know businesses are doing it tough. Please reach out to a mental health professional should you, your employees, family or anyone else you know require support. For contact information for a variety of free mental health support services visit www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/services

For further information

If you require any assistance in determining what support is available for you and your business, talk to a business support officer at Council.



1300 36 2170

Calling from interstate: (02) 8711 7000

National Relay Service (NRS): 133 677

(for hearing and speech impaired customers)



business@liverpool.nsw.gov.au



www.liverpool.nsw.gov.au



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