

# Office of Local Government



## COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

[subscribe](#) | [print](#) | [forward](#)

9 April 2020



### NSW Government to fund council-run childcare centres

Today the NSW Government announced it has committed up to \$82 million to support 260 council-run childcare centres not eligible for JobKeeper payments.

This new funding will provide councils with certainty during this challenging time, ensuring childcare educators can be confident they will remain employed. Families and children can be assured that their preschool service will continue to operate.

The new funding also means community preschools and council childcare centres should remain open, unless they are closed on health advice.



## Stay Home this Easter social media tiles

The Easter long weekend starts this Friday and as it is traditionally spent with extended family and friends it is important to remind the community of the need to continue to stay home.

Social media tiles are available [here](#) for use on your council's channels reinforcing this message, and we ask councils reinforce to their community:

- COVID-19 spreads in groups, and older people are the most vulnerable
- To keep our loved ones safe, we need our communities to stay home this Easter and spend this special time with their immediate households
- Where you can, try connecting with extended family and friends over the phone or online instead
- By doing this you can help us slow the spread of COVID-19 and together we will save lives
- For updated information about COVID-19, see [nsw.gov.au/covid-19](https://nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

## Keeping waste and recycling facilities open

The NSW Government strongly encourages, where possible, all councils to keep waste and recycling facilities open to the community. These services are an important service for the community.



A factsheet has been prepared by the EPA to support the continued operation of waste and recycling facilities during COVID-19.

The factsheet is available [here](#).



## Social distancing at council and committee meetings

Councils are reminded that a [Circular is available](#) to provide guidance on compliance with social distancing requirements at council meetings.

Councils are reminded that:

- Amendments have been made to the Act to temporarily modify the application of existing provisions of the Act and councils' codes of meeting practice. Any requirements under the Act or councils' codes of meeting practice for councillors to physically attend meetings and for members of the public to be permitted to attend meetings will be satisfied if attendance is by way of an audio-visual link. Councils are not required to make amendments to their codes of meeting practice to give effect to this.
- The amendment to the Act will operate for a period of six months but may be extended to 12 months.
- Where councillors participate in meetings remotely, they continue to be obliged to disclose and appropriately manage any pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at meetings
- Where councillors participate in meetings remotely, they continue to be obliged to protect any confidential information considered at the meeting, and,
- Where meetings are closed to the public under section 10A of the Act, Councillors should ensure that they participate in the meeting in a location where it cannot be seen or heard by anyone else



## Planning and Assessment for Councils FAQs now online

An updated Frequently Asked Questions document detailing a range of issues relating to Planning and Assessment is online.

The FAQ includes clarification on

essential services, managing planning functions, managing planning proposals and planning instruments, exemptions and change of use provisions, and more.

The FAQ can be accessed [here](#).

## Councils combating COVID-19

Many councils are doing incredible work for their local communities in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. That inspirational work should be celebrated – and we want to hear from you to help spread the word.



If you have colleagues within your council that you would like to see mentioned and congratulated on the OLG website going forward, please contact your Council Engagement Manager.



## Information and resources

### [Online survey reminder](#)

OLG is reminding councils to complete an online survey each day to make it easier to report their needs and issues. Council can access the online

survey [here](#).

### [Data on COVID-19 cases](#)

Councils can access the latest data on the number of COVID-19 cases by local government area and by local health district on the NSW Health website [here](#).

### [Quicklinks](#)

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#) and [Commonwealth Government](#) and [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) websites. The [Office of Local Government](#) also has a COVID-19 section on its website.

Please click [here](#) to [unsubscribe](#) from our mail list.