

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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

28 April 2020

LOCAL GOVERNMENT **ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE** *Safeguarding council jobs, services and infrastructure*



Find out more:
www.olg.nsw.gov.au

COVID-19 Local Government Economic Stimulus Package – FAQs now available

The NSW Government has announced a \$395 million economic stimulus package to safeguard council jobs, and local services and infrastructure in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local government economic stimulus package includes:

- Up to \$112.5 million to support a Council Job Retention Allowance of \$1,500 per fortnight per employee for up to three months to limit job losses in the NSW local government sector
- A \$250 million boost to the TCorp local government lending facility, bringing the total to \$1.35 billion, to provide councils with low-interest loans for community infrastructure
- All NSW councils able to access the TCorp local government lending facility for the next six months, subject to borrowing criteria
- TCorp principal and interest payment deferrals on council loans for six months
- Government guarantees for councils seeking commercial loans, and

- \$32.8 million to fully fund the 2020-21 increase in the emergency services levy for all NSW councils.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) has published a [comprehensive frequently asked questions document](#) on its website to provide further information on the various components of the package.

Councils can also direct any questions to their OLG Council Engagement Manager.



Minister Hancock and OLG webinar to discuss council stimulus package

The Office of Local Government is hosting a webinar for councils with Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock to discuss the COVID-19 local government economic stimulus package.

The webinar, on Friday (May 1) from 10-11am, will include a briefing on the package as well as a Q&A session with the Minister and OLG Deputy Secretary Tim Hurst.

Mayors and general managers will receive an email invitation to participate in the webinar. Councils are encouraged to submit any questions they have when they register.

Hardship support for ratepayers available

With the ongoing uncertainty associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, councils are being asked to waive rates, fees, and charges for those facing hardship, balanced against compliance with legislative requirements.

To assist councils with these difficult decisions, the NSW Government announced a suite of measures to provide councils with the flexibility to adjust to the rapidly shifting circumstances around COVID-19, and to allow councils to provide appropriate financial support to their local communities. More information on these measures can be found [here](#).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COVID-19 REGULATIONS

Easing the burden on ratepayers, businesses & councils



For more information go to olg.nsw.gov.au

The announcement of the extension of the date by which councils need to adopt their operational plans from 30 June to 31 July 2020 also provides councils with additional time to set rates.

[Read more](#)

Council success stories in face of COVID-19

We have received a wonderful response to our call for councils to share positive stories about how they are successfully adapting in the wake of the pandemic.



From libraries and museums innovating so they can keep serving the public, supporting local businesses to deliver essential supplies to homes, to helping neighbours check up on each other, councils across NSW are doing incredible work for their local communities in the face of such unprecedented challenges.

We are proud to celebrate their efforts on this page and ask that you keep sending your stories to us. The page will be regularly updated with more stories as they come in.

If you have a story to tell, please send a 200-300 word description, a photo and any relevant links to media@olq.nsw.gov.au



Information and resources

[Stay home this Ramadan social media tiles](#)
Social media tiles are available [here](#) for use on your council's channels reinforcing the Stay Home this Ramadan message to your community.

[NSW Government to relax social distancing laws](#)

Premier Gladys Berejiklian today announced changes to social distancing regulations allowing two adults to attend another person's home from Friday 1 May. Find out more [here](#).

[PPE supplier register now available](#)

The NSW Government has released a register of suppliers which have indicated their ability to provide critical supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 crisis. The register is available [here](#).

Quicklinks

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#), [Commonwealth Government](#) and [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) websites.

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