

# Office of Local Government



## COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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20 April 2020



### \$5000 on-the-spot fine protects council workers

Council staff, including rangers, are among those now protected under the expansion of \$5000 on-the-spot fines for anyone coughing or spitting on workers at their place of work or travelling to or from work.

Minister for Health Brad Hazzard made a [Ministerial Direction under](#)

[the Public Health Act 2010](#) allowing NSW Police to issue \$5,000 on-the-spot fines to anyone who coughs or spits on health workers, police, pharmacists, paramedics, or other public officials, including council rangers.

The expanded direction commences today (20 April 2020).

Members of the public can report anyone not complying with Public Health Orders to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000.

Read the Minister's media release [here](#).

Councils are also encouraged to share this message through their social media channels.



## Personal Protective Equipment supplier register available

A number of councils have reported that they are seeking to access Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as gloves, hand sanitiser and face masks, needed for ongoing work during the COVID-

19 pandemic.

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

The register covers the following product categories:

- hand sanitiser
- handwash and soap
- gloves
- disinfectant
- gowns
- masks
- eyewear
- paper products.

Councils can use the register to contact suppliers which have registered on the COVID-19 Emergency Supplies portal.

It is important to note the suppliers registered on the portal have not taken part in a prequalification scheme.

All supplier information has been directly provided by suppliers, without any verification or capability assessments undertaken by NSW Procurement.

**When engaging suppliers, please ensure you undertake your own due diligence in line with your organisation's procurement guidelines.**

## Frequently asked questions by councils

Over the last few weeks council staff have come forward with questions in relation to their role in managing COVID-19. Hopefully we have been able to answer many of these for you in the regular newsletters or through discussions with your Council Engagement Manager.



However, going forward we will include some FAQs as a semi-regular feature of this newsletter, some of which are new and some of which are questions we are regularly being asked.

If you have a question you would like answered, please fill in the regular survey form found below or contact your Council Engagement Manager.

### New or updated FAQs

#### **Who can stay in caravan parks and are councils obliged to keep them open?**

Caravan parks and campgrounds are to be closed except to accommodate:

- permanent residents of the caravan park or camping ground
- overnight travellers
- persons working in the local area
- other persons who have no other place of permanent residence or whose primary place of residence is temporarily unavailable, and
- persons who are visiting those who meet the above criteria.

#### **Are the public able to request to attend the opening of a Tender Box where access to council buildings is not currently available to the public?**

Public health and safety are paramount and councils should consider how they can provide transparency while maintaining social distancing, for example by live streaming the opening of the tender box if required, or recording the opening and placing it on the council's website.

#### **What role do councils play in enforcing social distancing?**

While councils do not have any formal enforcement powers under the Public Health Orders, they do play an important role in supporting the ongoing

implementation and management of social distancing within their communities.

This role can include dissemination of public health materials, continuing to manage land and facilities in accordance with Public Health Orders, and providing supporting regulatory activity such as complementary parking restrictions, to help assist with the enforcement of Public Health Orders.

Councils across NSW should continue to work with their Police Local Area Commands, Local Health Districts and Local Emergency Management Committees to assist with the management of COVID-19 restrictions within their community.



## Showcase your council's great work amid the pandemic

Many councils are doing incredible work for their local communities in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. That inspirational work should be celebrated.

The Office of Local Government (OLG) wants to hear from councils to share their success stories and acknowledge the contribution of individual teams and staff members.

If you have a story to tell, please send a 200-300 word description, a photo and any relevant links to [media@olg.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@olg.nsw.gov.au). Success stories will be published on [the OLG COVID-19 website](#).



## Information and resources

[OLG COVID-19 webpage updated](#)

Councils can access the latest [information and resources](#), [news and updates](#) and [council success stories](#) via the [OLG COVID-19 webpage](#).

[Online survey reminder](#)

OLG is reminding councils to complete an [online survey](#) each day to make it easier to report their needs and issues.

[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](#), [Commonwealth Government](#) and [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) websites.

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