

# Office of Local Government



## COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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1 July 2020

### New Public Health Order released

A remade [Public Health Order](#) easing a number of restrictions came into effect today, subject to strict social distancing rules.



From today, the new rules keeping the State COVIDSafe mean:

- The number of people allowed inside indoor venues will be determined by the 'one person per 4 square metre' rule, with no upper limit. This includes function centres. All activity must be seated only.
- Cultural and sporting events at outdoor venues with a maximum capacity of 40,000 will be allowed up to 25 percent of their normal capacity. Events must be ticketed and seated and follow strict guidelines.
- On compassionate grounds, restrictions on funerals will immediately be eased to allow the four-square-metre rule to apply.

- All other restrictions including 20 guests inside the home and 20 for outside gatherings remain the same.

The four-square-metre rule must be applied at all times, along with completion of COVIDSafe plans.

A Frequently Asked Questions document on the OLG website will be updated shortly to reflect the changes.

[More information on what is permissible can also be found here.](#)



## Supporting local businesses comply with COVID-19 restrictions

As COVID-19 restrictions ease and the focus moves towards recovery, the NSW Government is requesting councils support local businesses as they resume trading by assisting business operators

towards compliance with the Public Health Orders.

Requirements include mandatory COVIDSafe Plans for most businesses, which help bring more people back to work and are being accessed by thousands of businesses across NSW.

To facilitate economic recovery the Government has developed the COVIDSafe Check app, which allows customers to give feedback in real time to businesses, and regulators for action where necessary.

In some cases, feedback about businesses that may not be fully complying with the Public Health Orders may be provided to councils through the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Councils are asked to build on their community safety role by engaging with identified local businesses and guide owners and operators of the businesses to fulfil their obligations under the latest Public Health Order.

All enforcement action will remain a matter for the NSW Police Force.

[A recently distributed circular can be found here.](#)

More information on how councils can assist with this process will be provided in the coming days.

Resources will also be available on the OLG's COVID-19 webpage shortly.

## Victoria and NSW holiday destinations assets for download

NSW Health has made a range of information assets for NSW holiday destinations and related to Victoria available for download, in light of the recent resurgence of cases.

The assets are available in a variety of community languages and in portrait and landscape format.

Councils are encouraged to distribute this information through their social media channels.

[The assets are available for download here.](#)



## OLG webinars with Minister Dominello and Minister Tudehope online

Recent council webinars with Minister for Customer Service Victor Dominello (pictured) and Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope are available [here](#).

The webinars are part of a series coordinated by Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock with relevant Ministers and public officials across Government to keep mayors and general managers up to date on the latest COVID-19 information and answer their questions.

Further council webinars with Ministers will be announced shortly.

## \$1 billion to unlock thousands of infrastructure jobs in NSW

The Commonwealth and NSW governments have partnered to invest more than \$1 billion in infrastructure projects and road safety upgrades across the State.



The funding package includes \$382 million to help local councils upgrade roads across regional NSW, which will directly and indirectly support an estimated 3,500 jobs.

This investment will turbocharge the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads program to repair, maintain, or seal priority council roads, as well as enable projects to start construction over the next 12 months.

The first round of jointly funded projects will deliver more than 258 projects across 83 local government areas.

Additional NSW funding is sourced from the \$3 billion Project Acceleration Fund implemented through the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

[More information on the package can be found here.](#)



## Showgrounds get further \$10.77 million cash injection

Hundreds more shovel-ready projects to repair and renew showgrounds across the State will be supported with an additional \$10.77 million in funding from the NSW Government.

The extra funding is supporting a further 129 projects at 71 showgrounds as part of the Government's COVID-19 Stimulus Package.

Last month the NSW Government allocated \$12.5 million to support 393 projects at 137 showgrounds across the State.

A further \$12.5 million will be allocated to more showground upgrade projects next financial year, bringing total spending to \$35.77 million.

[More information on showground funding can be found here.](#)



## Information and resources

[Guidelines for COVIDSafe workplaces](#)  
Safety plans for a range of businesses and organisations can be found [here](#), and those in the sport and recreation sector [here](#).

### [Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

Councils can still apply for the Job Retention Allowance payment of \$1,500 per fortnight, per eligible employee. Find out how in this [circular](#).

### [OLG FAQs provide detailed guidance to councils](#)

Councils can access detailed FAQs on:

- [Local government legislative amendments](#)
- [Local government economic stimulus package](#)

### [Quicklinks](#)

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

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