Office of Local Government

COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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Border closed to protect NSW

NSW will temporarily shut its border with Victoria to contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect citizens.

The closure will be effective from 12.01am Tuesday 7 July to all Melbourne residents, and from 12:01am Wednesday 8 July for all Victorians, following the concerning spread of COVID-19 in Melbourne.

NSW residents returning from a Melbourne hotspot are already required to go into 14 days of self-isolation. This requirement will be extended to anyone returning from Victoria. This will be backed by heavy penalties and fines.

There will be provisions in place for residents of border regions, such as Albury-Wodonga.

Special conditions will be in place for freight operations and other critical services.

The Office of Local Government will be working with local councils to address issues in relation to the temporary closure of the border.

For more information click here.

Webinar with NSW Cross-Border Commissioner James McTavish

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is hosting a webinar with NSW Cross-Border Commissioner James McTavish tomorrow (July 7) from 1:30-2:00pm.

Commissioner McTavish will update councils on the closure of the border with Victoria. The update will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

Invitations have been distributed to mayors and general managers with information on how they can register for the webinar.

As you register you can list questions you would like answered during the webinar.

OLG webinar with Minister Taylor

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is hosting a council webinar with Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women Bronnie Taylor (pictured) tomorrow (July 7) from 2-3pm.

Invitations have been distributed to mayors and general managers with information on how they can register for the webinar.

Councils are also encouraged to submit questions they would like answered during the webinar when they register.

The webinar is 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.

Councils to help businesses operate COVIDSafe

Resources are now available to assist councils as they guide local businesses on how to operate COVIDSafe in line with Public Health Orders.

The resources include:

- A Frequently Asked Questions document on the role of councils, how council officers can manage site visits, where to go for more information, and more
- A slideshow for councils to inform officers on how they can manage the compliance process, and
- A site visit checklist.

The resources can be accessed here.

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

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.

Victoria and NSW holiday destinations assets for download
A range of information and social media assets for NSW holiday destinations and related to Victoria are available for download 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.

Detailed OLG guidance to councils
Councils can access detailed guidance on:
- Local government legislative amendments
- Local government economic stimulus package
- Latest Public Health Order