

2.56.002

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Alexandrina Council endorse COVID-19 'Business Support Package'

21 April 2020

Alexandrina Council has endorsed a comprehensive Business Support Package to help alleviate the local economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The package will be delivered in three distinct phases, aimed at supporting business survival in the short term (April – June 2020), business recovery in the medium term (July – December 2020) and business growth and resilience in the longer term (January 2021 onwards).

The package supplements existing economic stimulus and financial relief measures recently announced by both State and Federal Government.

The centrepiece of the package is up to \$200,000 of immediate financial relief measures:

- 3-month rent free period (April – June 2020) for eligible tenants of Council buildings;
- Ability to further extend the rent free period should business restrictions remain ongoing, subject to Council approval; and
- Automatic fee waiver of specific business permits including outdoor dining permits and health inspection fees for the period April – June 2020.

Medium and longer-term initiatives foreshadowed in the package include:

- Prioritising the establishment of an Economic Development and Events Recovery Grant Program in the 2020-21 budget considerations; and
- Implementation of an Alexandrina Business Digital Economy Strategy to assist as many businesses in the region to get online as possible.

The package also outlines a range of business support initiatives already underway since early March, including reduced payment terms for local suppliers, a food guide promoting local businesses offering take-away and delivery options, flexible on-street parking controls, a dedicated COVID-19 business support portal on the Council website and establishment of the Alexandrina Business Hotline (8555 7455) for local businesses seeking Council support and advice.

Local businesses and other community members experiencing financial hardship can also access a range of rate relief measures under Council's existing Hardship Policy, including postponement of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2019-20 and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020-21 rates until December 2020.

Alexandrina Mayor Keith Parkes said Council is committed to supporting and working with local

businesses during these unprecedented times.

“As a region that benefits from a seasonal influx of visitor and tourism dollars, we know there are many businesses in our community doing it really tough right now. Local businesses are the backbone of our community and as the closest level of government to community, it’s important that Council finds a way to help reduce that financial pressure” he said.

“The measures outlined in the Business Support Package, and unanimously supported by Council, are designed to help our local businesses survive this challenging time and be in a position to rebuild and recover on the other side.

“When restrictions are eased we want to be sure our local businesses are here to welcome visitors back into the region, and that together, we’re ready to leverage new opportunities as and when they arise”.

More information about the Alexandrina Council Business Support Package can be found at [www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/business](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/business)

# Alexandrina Council

## Supporting local businesses in response to COVID-19



### Rent free period for eligible council building tenants

up to \$191,000 in total value,  
1 April 2020–30 June 2020



### Prioritise a local stimulus package – ‘Economic Development and Events Recovery Grant program’

(in the 2020–2021 budget  
considerations)



### Flexibility to further extend for 3 months (Jul–Sep)

should the economic issues remain  
ongoing, subject to further  
council approval



### Automatic fee waiver

for specific businesses  
permits and licenses  
(up to the value  
of \$6,000)

### Medium and long term timeframe

Now–30 Jun 2020  
Supporting  
business survival

Jul–Dec 2020  
Supporting  
business recovery

Jan 2021 onwards  
Supporting business  
growth and resilience



To view the Alexandrina **Business Support Package** and further information visit [alexandrina.sa.gov.au/business](http://alexandrina.sa.gov.au/business) or call the Business Support Hotline **8555 7455**