

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Tasmanian Social and Economic Support Package

Supporting Businesses and Jobs

The health, safety and wellbeing of Tasmanians is our number one priority as we face the challenge of coronavirus. Our social and economic support package will help Tasmanian businesses and jobs as we deal with the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Government Fees and Charges:

For businesses and jobs the Government will:

- Freeze, waive or cap fees and charges for small businesses, including:
 - Water and electricity bills will be waived for the first quarterly bill received after 1 April this year for small business customers on Tariff 22, 94, 82 or 75, including those small businesses on market contracts that could access those tariffs.
 - Electricity prices will be capped, and water prices will be frozen next financial year.
 - The Government will freeze all fees and charges subject to the *Government Fee Units Act 1997*.
- The Government will also waive the roads component of motor tax and vehicle registration where that business has been significantly impacted by measures taken to manage COVID-19.
- The Government will also waive land tax for 2020-21 for commercial property owners financially impacted by COVID-19, where the land tax is paid by the business owner.

Payroll tax relief

- The Government will extend the previously announced Payroll tax waivers for the hospitality, tourism and seafood sectors and for Tasmanian businesses with payrolls less than \$5 million which

have been impacted by coronavirus to ensure that these businesses will pay no payroll taxes for the entire 2019-20 year. This measure will be delivered through a combination of payroll tax refunds and waivers.

Additional funding to help our workforce

- The Government will boost funding for the Rapid Response Skills Initiative with an additional \$6.3 million. Through this program, up to \$3,000 will be available for individuals to gain skills or licences to help them into a new role.
- Businesses that have immediate job needs and opportunities available, will be able to access a job-ready pool, including to match people to our immediate priority skills needs, such as in health and food retail industries.

Local Government Loan scheme

- The Government has extended the Local Government Loan Scheme from \$50 million to \$150 million to encourage local councils to upgrade local infrastructure and employ Tasmanians in the process.

[More information on next page](#)

Additional support for small businesses

- For small businesses, the Government will also:
 - Increase the Small Business Interest Free Loan Scheme from \$20 million to \$50 million, which is available for businesses with turnovers of less than \$10 million;
 - Provide a new \$40 million to the Small Business Grants Program with \$20 million set aside for emergency grant support and \$20 million for larger grants payments;
 - Provide a Digital Ready for Business Program will be boosted with \$150,000 to assist businesses who want to take their business online;
 - Provide business continuity advice with \$750,000 in funding made available for businesses to seek cashflow and continuity advice. This includes a \$50,000 grant to the Small Business Council of Tasmania;
 - A further \$200,000 will be provided to the THA to provide business continuity and cashflow advice, increasing the funding for this initiative up to \$250,000;
 - A further \$200,000 will be provided to Rural Business Tasmania for the extension of its Rural Financial Counselling service; and
 - Provide \$100,000 to support our local Chamber of Commerce's as they themselves assist businesses manage COVID-19.