

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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27 May 2020

Advance payment of Financial Assistance Grants

The NSW Office of Local Government yesterday made advance payments to all NSW councils of the Commonwealth's Financial Assistance Grants.



It followed the Commonwealth agreeing to a request from NSW Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock to bring forward payment of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants to help councils recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The advance payment represents the first two instalments of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants.

The Office of Local Government today issued a [circular](#) providing more information about the payment of the remainder of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants to NSW councils.

School students exempt from social distancing guidelines

Councils are reminded that school students are now not subject to strict distancing guidelines when engaging in school activities and sports.



School students are allowed to engage in non-contact sporting activities and are exempt from the 10-person gathering restrictions currently in place for the rest of the community.

For more information click [here](#).



Bushfire recovery continues in face of COVID-19

The Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group is beginning to ramp up operations as COVID-19 restrictions ease across the State.

The support group is a joint undertaking between the Office of Local Government, City of Sydney, Sydney Resilience Office and Local Government NSW, and is coordinating council-to-council assistance in the wake of the 2019-20 bushfires.

Bushfire recovery is continuing despite the COVID-19 pandemic having affected the progress of those activities. There are still many requests for assistance and opportunities for those councils not affected by the bushfires to help.

If your council previously offered assistance, the group encourages you to confirm if that offer is still available.

If your council previously requested assistance, you are also encouraged to confirm whether that it is still needed.

To discuss your involvement in the group, please email recovery@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.



Information and resources

[Minister Hazzard webinar recording](#)

Councils can access the latest OLG webinar with Health Minister Brad Hazzard [here](#).

[Health signage available for download](#)

Promote safety measures and social distancing in your community by accessing downloadable NSW Health signage [here](#).

[Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program](#)

Councils can access information about the Commonwealth Government's new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program [here](#).

[Community Building Partnership 2020 Round](#)

Councils can apply for funding under the 2020 Round of the NSW Government's [Community Building Partnership](#) program.

[Job Retention Allowance payment applications](#)

Councils can now 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](#)
- [New Public Health Order](#).

[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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