

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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22 June 2020

Supporting local businesses to comply with COVID-19 restrictions

As restrictions ease and the focus moves towards recovery, the NSW Government is requesting that councils build on their community safety role by engaging with local businesses that need assistance in complying with COVID-19 Public Health Orders.



The Government has developed the COVID Safe Check app, which provides a way for customers to give feedback in real time to businesses and to 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 engage with identified businesses through targeted site visits, the primary purpose of which is to guide and assist business operators

towards compliance with the Public Health Orders.

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

OLG's Council Engagement Managers will contact councils in the coming days to develop a database of relevant officers and answer any questions councils may have about the process.

[A circular distributed on June 19 with more information can be found here.](#)

Further information, including resources such as a standardised checklist and reporting tools, will also be available on the OLG's COVID-19 webpage.



Upcoming OLG webinars with Minister Dominello and Minister Tudehope

The Office of Local Government (OLG) is hosting a council webinar with Minister for Customer Service Victor Dominello (pictured) on June 23 from 11am-12pm.

A council webinar with Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope will take place from 10am-11am on June 26.

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

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

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.

Recordings of webinars are made available on the OLG website.

Further council webinars with Ministers will be announced shortly.

Half price off-peak travel on the way

Opal fares will change from July 6, including a temporary 50 per cent discount for off-peak travel on bus, train, metro and light rail services to help manage social distancing measures and keep staff and customers safe on public transport.

The 50 per cent off-peak discount will remain for three months, then a permanent 30 per cent discount for off-peak travel will be introduced on bus and light rail, which is in line with current off-peak fares for train and metro.

A new \$8.05 all-day travel cap will also be introduced on Saturdays and Sundays.

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



Spread the word about webinars helping local businesses

Councils are encouraged to promote a series of free webinars to provide small businesses with information on government support available during this challenging time.

An upcoming webinar focuses on workplace legislation, getting a better understanding of wellbeing, how to access resources, and information on looking after your business and other Government programs of interest.

Representatives include:

- Overview & MC by NSW Small Business Commission – Josh Begbie
- State Insurance Regulatory Authority - Rebecca Neilson & James Rathborne
- NSW Office of Industrial Relations - Toni Minovski
- icare - Jennifer Cameron.

The session will take place from 6pm on June 25 and will be followed by a 30-minute live Q&A with the presenters.

[Registrations are essential and can be made here.](#)

[All past COVID-19 small business information webinars are available here.](#)

Also available is a past [NSW Small Business Bushfire Information webinar](#) where you can hear from a range of government agencies on the support available to bushfire-affected small businesses.

Emergency Cleaning Stimulus Scheme

Councils are eligible to use the NSW Emergency Cleaning Stimulus Scheme to engage cleaning providers to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 at lower cost than individual council procurement while helping to meet better social outcomes.



Councils are encouraged to purchase from Australian Disability Enterprises, Aboriginal businesses, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), regional suppliers and social enterprises where possible to boost the local economy and help create jobs.

More information on how to access the scheme can be found [here](#), or by contacting the NSW Procurement Service Centre on nswbuy@treasury.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 679 289.

Alternatively, you can email the Scheme Management Team at cleaning@treasury.nsw.gov.au.



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](#).

[Health signage available for download](#)

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

[Spreading simple health messages for older Australians](#)

Factsheets to ensure older Australians stay healthy, stay safe, and stay connected are available [here](#).

[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](#)
- [The latest 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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