

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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Tuesday 25 August 2020

Grants to help southern border small businesses

NSW small businesses will benefit from a new \$45 million grant program designed to cushion the economic impacts of the southern border closure.



Businesses in 13 Local Government Areas along the NSW and Victorian border will be able to apply for \$5,000 and \$10,000 grants through Service NSW from September 8.

The eligible LGAs are:

- Albury
- Balranald
- Berrigan
- Bega Valley
- Edward River
- Federation
- Greater Hume

- Hay
- Murray River
- Murrumbidgee
- Snowy Monaro
- Snowy Valleys
- Wentworth.

The Southern Border Small Business Support Grant can be used to pay for unavoidable expenses such as utilities, as well as to develop marketing and communication materials or to diversify their offerings to help businesses adapt to the new environment.

The grant will be available for six weeks (September 8 - October 18) and small business owners can apply via the [Service NSW website](#).

The grant can only be used for eligible expenses incurred following the introduction of the NSW and Victoria border permit scheme on July 8, and must only be used for expenses for which no other government support is available. For example, this grant cannot be used to pay wages for staff eligible for JobKeeper.

For more information, please [click here](#).

COVID Safe stakeholder toolkit in community languages

A COVID Safe toolkit with direct links to translated content in 12 languages is now available to help your council and community share important information.



The kit also contains links to content in additional languages and a digital resource library.

The content can be downloaded and shared on council communication channels.

Councils can access the toolkit [here](#).



COVID-19 and libraries survey report now online

The State Library of NSW has surveyed public library managers to understand the immediate impacts the COVID-19 crisis has had on their operations, staffing, programs and services.

The survey covered the period from March 1 to June 1. A total of 90 responses were received representing a cross-section of regional and metropolitan library services from across NSW.

The survey captured information on how public libraries coped with the lockdown and responded to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

To access the survey report, please [click here](#).



Information and resources

[Guidelines for COVID Safe workplaces](#)

Safety plans for a range of businesses and organisations can be found [here](#), and those in the sport and recreation sector [here](#).

[Local government toolkit](#)

The Department of Customer Service has prepared a toolkit for councils regarding the [Victoria-NSW border closure](#).

[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](#)
- [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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