

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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6 October 2020

Slashing outdoor dining red tape in time for summer

Summer is coming and outdoor spaces are being opened up for alfresco drinking and dining just in time for the warmer weather with the NSW Government slashing red tape to allow quicker approval times for venues.



The new measures mean cafés, bars, restaurants and hotels will be able to apply for an outdoor dining licence without needing to get planning approval, making things easier for business owners. They are set to be rolled out first in The Rocks from October 16 and in the city from November 1 for a 12-month pilot.

The Government has worked worked with the City of Sydney and Place Management NSW, the landowner for The Rocks, to condense what was previously a three-month process involving multiple agencies, into a single application that takes a week.

An amendment to the Liquor Regulation will also allow expanded liquor licence boundaries to be approved in as little as three days - a process that previously took up to 51 days.

Councils across the State are encouraged to examine how they can fast-track

outdoor dining area approvals at their end while ensuring public amenity and safety.

The NSW Government is exploring further changes so that all councils can take advantage of the new arrangements and implement similar streamlined processes in time for summer.

Consultation is now open for feedback on the proposed changes to the codes SEPP to allow pubs, small bars and cultural venue with a food or drink outlet to participate in the outdoor dining trial in the City of Sydney.

To read more about the COVID Safe Summer Plan please [click here](#).

Councils who would like more information can contact their Council Engagement Manager.



COVID Safe business data on Data NSW

Councils can now access a list of businesses in their area that have registered to be COVID Safe.

The NSW Government has published a list of the more than 90,000 businesses who have registered as COVID Safe on data.nsw.gov.au for councils.

This information will help councils better coordinate support activities to promote COVID Safe registration for any businesses not on the list. The lists are updated every weekday.

Businesses can register as COVID Safe after completing a COVID Safety Plan, by visiting nsw.gov.au.

If you require any assistance please email datansw@customerservice.nsw.gov.au.



Let's have a COVID Safe Summer

The NSW Government recently launched the [COVID Safe Summer Plan](#) which outlines how managers of beaches, parklands and other public spaces can help make this a

safe summer for everyone.

Resources on the [COVID Safe Summer webpage](#) include an interactive online map, My Favourite Places. It allows people to drop pins on the map to promote the hidden gems in their neighbourhood, so locals can get more info on lesser known places they can visit in their neighbourhood instead of the usual 'high traffic destination locations'.

Councils are encouraged to drop pins in the map to support safe visitation across your LGA. Please promote My Favourite Places across your council's public facing communication channels and let's work together to make this a safe summer for all.

COVID Safe Check-In tool webinar

General Managers, Community Facility and Event Managers are invited to learn more about the NSW Government's recently launched COVID Safe Check-In tool at a webinar this Friday from 12:15-1pm.



Presented by Service NSW, this webinar will provide information on the COVID Safe Check-In tool's features and how it can be used in council venues and local communities. To register for the webinar please [click here](#).

The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session where participants will be able to ask Service NSW any questions about the tool and its use.

As you register you will be able to list any questions you may have.

For those unable to participate live, the webinar will also be available afterwards for viewing on the OLG website.

The COVID Safe Check-In is a digital registration tool on the Service NSW app that provides businesses and organisations with a free, secure, easy way to meet requirements for the collection and storage of customer contact details, which may be used for contact tracing.

Since its launch, the tool has been adopted by over 8,950 businesses across NSW, used by more than 409,000 customers, and has been given a 92 per cent thumbs-up feedback rating.



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](#).

Keep Our Mob Safe campaign

NSW Health in partnership with the Department of Customer Service has developed the Keep Our Mob Safe campaign to prepare and empower Aboriginal people to keep themselves and their communities safe and healthy amid COVID-19. The resources include flyers, posters, and social media tiles and are available for download [here](#).

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](#).

Together against COVID-19

A pack outlining strategy, plans, and controls for communication to build social cohesion as the COVID-19 crisis evolves can be found [here](#).

Stakeholder toolkit in community languages

Downloadable translated resources and direct links to information on how to stay COVID Safe in the community and specific resources for businesses can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

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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