



**GREATER SHEPPARTON
ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO**

**COVID-19
PACKAGE** 



Greater Shepparton City Council is acting decisively to support our community and businesses to lessen the burden of the significant economic consequences of COVID-19.

Council is therefore immediately initiating a suite of measures through the introduction of a Stage 1 \$1.5 million Greater Shepparton Economic Response to COVID-19 Package. This Package aims to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of Greater Shepparton residents, our vulnerable community, and provide immediate and ongoing support to our local businesses that are currently experiencing devastating levels of disruption and uncertainty.

While the full local economic effects from the pandemic are yet to be fully understood, the Package provides timely financial and direct support to businesses and the broader community to assist in managing and navigating the immediate and ongoing impact of COVID-19.

Council's Package seeks to build on relief plans and various measures announced by the Federal and State Governments rather than duplicate their efforts.

And while the Package offers direct funding relief, it further provides actions to strengthen the on-going resilience and capacity within the community, as well as enabling Council to be more agile in its planning, processing and delivery of services.

COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC RESPONSE TARGETS FOUR AREAS:



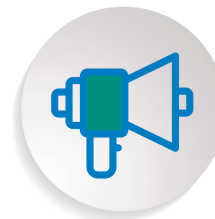
RESIDENTS



COMMUNITY
GROUPS



BUSINESSES



ADVOCACY



Residents

1. Residential ratepayers are able to enter into a payment arrangement or apply for financial hardship consideration regarding rates. Each case will be assessed on individual circumstances with outcomes customised according to the need of each case.
2. No interest will be raised on residential rates from 16 March 2020, the date a State of Emergency was declared, until 30 June 2020.
3. Extending the due date of Animal Registration Fees to 30 June 2020.
4. Continue to maintain a vulnerable person's register as described by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Pandemic Co-ordination Group will also work with partner agencies to assist the most vulnerable in our community.
5. Council staff will be allocated to assist community agencies where their services are in great demand such as Shepparton FoodShare.



Community Groups

6. Waiver rent/fees for community and sporting groups for Council owned land/grounds for from 1 March 2020 to 30 June 2020.
7. A reduction in rent by 50% for tenants of Council owned buildings or facilities from 1 March, 2020 to 30 June 2020.



Businesses

8. Business ratepayers are able to enter into a payment arrangement or apply for financial hardship consideration regarding rates. Each case will be assessed on individual circumstances with outcomes customised according to the need of each case.
9. No interest will be raised on business rates from 16 March 2020, the date a State of Emergency was declared, until 30 June 2020.
10. Waiving of building and planning permit fees relating directly to the COVID-19 emergency until 30 June 2020
11. Waiving outdoor dining permit fees for 12 months (This will apply to the 2020/21 financial year. Registration renewals will be sent in April 2020). Businesses need to renew their permit and provide the applicable Certificate of Currency for \$20 million.
12. Waiving Goods for Display Permit fees for 12 months (This will apply to the 2020/21 financial year. Registration renewals will be sent in April 2020). Businesses need to renew their permit and provide the applicable Certificate of Currency for \$20 million.
13. Waiving Advertising Signs (A-frame) permit fees for 12 months (This will apply to the 2020/21 financial year. Registration renewals will be sent in April 2020). Businesses need to renew their permit and provide the applicable Certificate of Currency for \$20 million.
14. Reduced cost of food premises and health premises registrations for 2021 (registrations are currently paid in advance for the calendar year and renewals are sent in November 2020). This would come into effect from November 2020 for eligible business impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
15. Facilitate and fast track development applications where possible to assist businesses attempting to diversify, adapt or expand.
16. A Small to Medium Businesses COVID-19 Quick Response Grant for up to \$3,000 to facilitate transitioning to online and e-commerce activities.
17. Development of a Small Business Expert Support Program to support local small business owners and staff to identify and deliver relevant training and development activities to assist them to adapted to changing work practices and models. This enables businesses to articulate and define their own needs and ideas for support and recovery.
18. Development of a suite of virtual seminars to support local business through the COVID-19 pandemic, providing information and advice on deciphering Government assistance packages, adapting and innovating business models in response to the rapidly changing environment, and health and well-being support and advice.
19. In partnership with Grow Greater Shepparton, Committee for Greater Shepparton, Shepparton Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shepparton Show Me, Tourism Greater Shepparton, Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project and Goulburn Murray Community Leadership Program, develop a Business to Business portal to support local business as part of the Greater Shepparton Response initiative.



Advocacy

20. Continue to lobby the State and Federal Governments (including to the Federal Treasurer) to increase and expediate Federal Assistance Grants to allow local Councils to provide targeted rate relief for residents and businesses.
21. Partner with State Government to identify the most efficient process for our community to access upcoming State funding programs.

Council will need to monitor the flow of this support and adapt as required, as further measures are announced.

This first phase Package of 21 measures has been developed by Council to not only assist at this difficult time but to ensure our community is ready to rebound as strongly and as quickly as we possibly can from this global event.

GREATER SHEPPARTON
ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO
COVID-19
PACKAGE 

greater shepparton.com.au

