

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

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Yesterday the JobKeeper payment was passed in parliament paving the way for thousands of Australians to take advantage of the support packages offered by the Federal Government. Below you will find more information on this as well as the link to register to receive the payment and a fact sheet with all of the details.

Ted O'Brien, Federal Member for Fairfax has this evening sent through an Easter Message and a Coronavirus update. To watch the video please [click here](#).

There is some information on a new initiative that has been launched to help our aquaculture and agriculture industries to export, as well as some quick links for business support and grant opportunities.

We have also included the latest news from both the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils who are working hard to support the local business community during this time.

And finally, please enjoy the long weekend with your family at home and a reminder to only venture out if you really need to.



JobKeeper Payment package legislation approved by parliament

The [JobKeeper Payment](#) package legislation was passed in parliament last night.

The JobKeeper Payment will support employers to maintain their connection to their employees. These connections will enable business to reactivate their operations quickly - without having to rehire staff - when the crisis is over.

Under the JobKeeper Payment, businesses impacted by the coronavirus will be able to access a subsidy from the Government to continue paying their employees. Affected employers will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1,500 per eligible employee from 30 March 2020, for a maximum period of 6 months.

Register for the JobKeeper payment [here](#).

[JobKeeper Payment Fact Sheet](#)



Agricultural and fisheries exports cleared for take-off

The Australian Government has launched a new \$110 million initiative to help aquaculture and agriculture businesses export produce.

The International Freight Assistance Mechanism, which will be overseen by an International Freight Coordinator-General, will help secure freight services into Australia's key markets across Asia and the Middle East, and bring back vital medical supplies.

If you are an exporter in the agriculture and seafood sectors needing assistance getting product to market, register your business requirements here.

[Register your Interest](#)

Quick Links

Information on how the Australian Government's economic response could support you can be found in the following fact sheets.



Employees working from home

As the situation around COVID-19 continues to develop, we understand you may now be working from home and you may incur expenses that you can claim at tax time.

[Read More](#)



ATO measures & tailored support

Information about ATO measures and tailored support during COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

[Read More](#)



Grants to address COVID-19 impacts

Find COVID-19 grant opportunities on GrantConnect

[Read More](#)



Sunshine Coast Council Coronavirus latest news

[Professional Advice Support Program](#) - As a result of impacts from COVID-19 council has spoken to many businesses in a variety of industries who have reported confusion, anxiety and uncertainty surrounding their business due to the overload of information, multiple economic stimulus packages and increasing business and social distancing restrictions. Businesses have reported not knowing how or where to start accessing this relief and support, as a result of this council has implemented the Professional Advice Support Program to help businesses access this support.

About the program

Council will fund the Professional Advice Support Program which is designed to connect critically impacted local businesses to confidential professional advice to support them through the business impacts resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Eligible businesses will be able to access up to one (1) hour of professional advice at no charge in three categories:

- Accounting and insolvency
- Human resources
- Legal services

For the Sunshine Coast COVID-19 information and insights page click [here](#).

[Apply here](#)



Business Community Update

Noosa Council has implemented the following initiatives to support affected local business:

- A [Shop Local Noosa](#) website directory has been developed to support the distribution of local food in Noosa. Local food and beverage producers are encouraged to [apply](#) for their FREE business listing.
- Noosa Council Business Hotline – Business Mentors Noosa FREE hotline for is operating for businesses who would like generalised support and advice. Call 5430 6652 weekdays.
- [Business Support Program](#) - Noosa Council is offering FREE assistance for businesses during this time. A specialised panel of suppliers is available in the following specialties – Marketing, Innovation, HR and Business Continuity - to support and assist your business to adapt to these new business conditions.

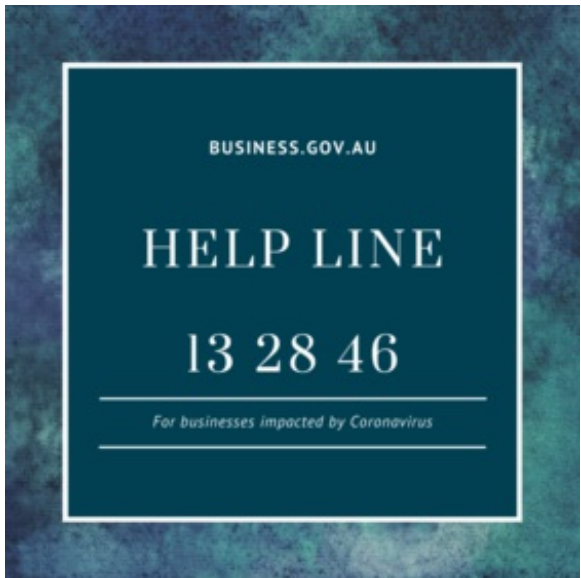
To keep up to date with all Council’s Business e-Updates, [subscribe here](#).

Business and COVID-19

Helpline for Small Business

Operations at the www.business.gov.au Contact Centre has increased from five days per week to seven days per week, and will provide an additional two hours a day of support outside standard operating hours, answering calls from 6.00am to 11.00pm AEST.

Click here for more



Current Health Advice from the Department of Health

The latest information about COVID-19 is available on the Department of Health’s website, including a number of fact sheets and resources for the public.



Latest Health Information








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newsletter

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Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast is an Australian Government initiative which works in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils to support economic development within the region.



An Australian Government Initiative

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