



CITY OF SOUTH PERTH LOCAL COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RELIEF

The City of South Perth Local Community Response and Relief Package provides immediate and ongoing support to our residents and businesses who need it most. It offers local level assistance to stand alongside the relief plans already committed by the State and Federal Government.

While the full local economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are yet to be fully understood, the City's Local Community Response and Relief Package provides timely support to assist in managing the social and economic impact of the crisis both immediately and into the next financial year.

The package includes a number of immediate short term initiatives and support measures including a Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to directly assist those impacted by the economic impact of the pandemic.

The package will also inform the development of the 2020/21 annual budget which will be presented to Council in June 2020.

LOCAL SUPPORT

We recognise that community groups, residents and local businesses are all feeling the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. A number of relief measures have been implemented to support and assist the local community to ease some of the economic pressures and complement measures already announced by other levels of government.

FOR RESIDENTS

- Additional Recycling Centre vouchers - one Green Waste and one General Waste per household on request. For more information visit southperth.wa.gov.au/recycling
- One hour FREE ticket parking introduced in a number of popular City car parks. Visit southperth.wa.gov.au/parking for details
- Parking enforcement is limited to compliance for safety and accessibility purposes
- Booking fees and deposits have been refunded for cancelled bookings at City controlled properties and facilities.



FOR BUSINESS

- Fee support will be available to tenants and license holders currently operating within City owned and managed land and buildings
- Rent reviews for commercial property leases will be deferred unless the tenant requests that the rent review proceeds as normal
- The City's procurement policy has been updated to consider procurement from local businesses
- Alfresco fees and trading permit fees have been refunded to businesses impacted by COVID-19
- Licence fees refunded on a pro-rata basis for businesses that have ceased trading under the WA State Government Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions
- One hour FREE ticket parking introduced in a number of popular City car parks. Visit southperth.wa.gov.au/parking for details
- Parking enforcement has been limited to compliance for safety and accessibility purposes only
- The City is seeking to introduce an Exempt Land Use policy that will remove the need for planning approval for new small-scale, low impact businesses that may open in the City
- Restrictions on loading or unloading times relating to the delivery of goods and/or fuel have been relaxed to assist in maintaining the continued supply of goods and fuel
- One additional General Waste voucher for the Recycling Centre will be made available on request per business. For more information visit southperth.wa.gov.au/recycling
- Payment to City of South Perth suppliers will occur on a weekly basis to assist their cash flow, effectively reducing payment terms to less than 30 days
- A buy local, shop local page has been developed for the City's website to promote local businesses and the City will continue to support and provide links to other relevant websites promoting local business. Visit southperth.wa.gov.au/business for more information.

FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Lease and licence charges have been waived for clubs and community organisations (excluding outgoings)
- Booking fees and deposits have been refunded for cancelled bookings in City controlled properties and facilities.



FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

The Financial Hardship Assistance Policy builds on relief measures announced by the Federal and State Governments. It focuses on vulnerable residents, businesses and community groups who are suffering genuine financial hardship by providing some relief from debt repayment charges.

Financial hardship means that a person or organisation is experiencing difficulty in meeting their financial obligations. They have the intention but not the financial capacity to pay debts owed to the City. In the case of an individual, paying their debt to the City will impact on their ability to meet their basic living needs. Financial hardship may be of a temporary nature.

Examples of events that may cause financial hardship include:

- Loss of employment
- Reduction of work hours
- Being stood down
- Reduction of income due to illness
- Relationship breakdown
- Natural disaster
- Pandemic
- Economic downturn.

Financial Hardship Assistance is available for debts owing to the City including:

- Rates, Emergency Services Levy (ESL), waste service charge and fees and charges
- Leases, licences and rentals
- Self-supporting loans
- Other debts such as underground power or sundry debts.

Temporary Financial Hardship Assistance measures may include:

- A reduction in debt repayment amounts
- Deferring payments for a specified time
- A reduction or elimination of penalty interest for a specified time
- The suspension of the debt recovery process.

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

An application for Financial Hardship Assistance will be assessed based on individual circumstances. The process is initiated on submission of a Financial Hardship Application Form.

The first round of Financial Hardship Assistance will take effect from 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

To find out more and to apply for assistance visit southperth.wa.gov.au



MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

In addition to the measures outlined, the following additional measures will be considered as part of the Annual Budget 2020/21 planning process to be presented to Council in June 2020.

- 0% Rate increase (average)
- 0% increase on the Waste Collection Levy
- 0% increase in City Fees and Charges
- Waiver of all interest accrued on Rates, Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and Waste Collection Levy from 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020 for residential and commercial properties in accordance with the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy
- All Environmental Health related fees to be waived for local businesses impacted by the State Government directions related to COVID-19 until at least 31 December 2020
- Suspension of debt collection activities for the 2020/21 financial year
- Three month repayment holiday with no penalty interest for all community group Self Supporting Loans from July 2020
- Waiver of club and community organisations' lease and licence charges for 3 months from July 2020 (excluding outgoings)
- Waiver of licence fees on a pro-rata basis for businesses affected by the WA State Government Closure and Restriction (Limit the Spread) Directions
- Freeze commercial property lease and licence payments for those that apply and are deemed eligible under the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy for a period of three months from July 2020
- Freeze all rent reviews for a period of three months from July 2020
- Refund of all cancelled bookings at City controlled properties and facilities
- Support community sporting and cultural groups by establishing grant programs
- Prepare an Economic Development Strategy to provide a framework for practical support to assist the recovery of the local business sector.