



CITY OF SOUTH PERTH COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

SEPTEMBER 2020

The City of South Perth COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Plan provides support to our residents and businesses. It offers local level assistance to stand alongside the relief plans already committed by the State and Federal Government.

This Plan sets out the next stage of support for the City of South Perth community following the Local Community Response and Relief Package that was issued as a direct and short term response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Plan provides timely support to assist in managing the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis. It includes a number of initiatives and support measures including a Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to directly assist those most impacted by the pandemic.

The Plan will be subject to ongoing review to reflect changes to the COVID-19 situation at the local level and to ensure compatibility with the directives contained within the State Government COVID-19 WA Roadmap.



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 are available to support and assist the local community to ease some of the economic pressures and to complement measures provided by other levels of government.

FOR RESIDENTS

- Interest accrued on Rates, Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and Waste for residential properties will be waived from 1 July to 30 September 2020 in accordance with the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy
- Debt collection activities have been suspended by the City for the 2020/21 financial year
- The City's Helping Hands program is available to vulnerable members of the community who may need help
- Bookings for City properties and facilities that have to be cancelled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions during 2020/21 will be refunded.

FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

- Booking fees and deposits have been refunded for cancelled bookings in City controlled properties and facilities
- A three month repayment holiday with no penalty interest will be available to all community group self-supporting loans from 1 July to 30 September 2020
- Club and community organisation lease and licence charges, excluding outgoings will be waived for three months from 1 July to 30 September 2020
- Grant programs are available to support community sporting and cultural groups.

FOR BUSINESS

- Interest accrued on Rates, Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and Waste will be waived from 1 July to 30 September 2020 for commercial properties in accordance with the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy
- City controlled commercial property lease and licence payments will be frozen for those that apply and are deemed eligible under the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy from 1 July to 30 September 2020
- Rent reviews for City controlled commercial property leases will be deferred from 1 July to 30 September 2020
- Relief will be provided in accordance with the Commercial Tenancies Code of Conduct and the City's Financial Hardship Assistance Policy in relation to City controlled properties
- Procurement from local businesses will be considered as part of the City's procurement policy
- Alfresco fees and trading permit fees have been waived until 31 January 2021
- Licence fees have been waived for commercial food premises until 31 January 2021
- The City has introduced an Exempt Land Use policy to 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
- 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 has developed a marketing campaign to promote the Buy Local, Shop Local message
- The City's economic development team is in regular contact with local business to provide help and support
- An Economic Development Plan is being developed to provide a framework for practical support to assist the recovery of the local business sector.



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 took effect from 1 April to 30 June 2020 and will continue during 2020/21.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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southperth.wa.gov.au

Recycling Centre

9367 2492

📍 Hayman Rd & Thelma St, Como
enquiries@southperth.wa.gov.au

Animal Care Facility

9474 0777

📍 199 Thelma St, Como

George Burnett Leisure Centre

9474 0855

📍 Manning Rd, Karawara
leisurecentre@southperth.wa.gov.au

South Perth Library

9474 0800

📍 Cnr Sandgate St & South Tce, South Perth
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Manning Library

9474 0822

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Old Mill

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South Perth Senior Citizens

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Manning Senior Citizens

9450 6273

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Graffiti Hotline 1800 007 774

Collier Park Golf Course

9484 1666

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Collier Park Village

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