

BUDGET 2020-21

I AM A BUSINESS. WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

Almost \$2 million will be dedicated to business and economic recovery as part of Council's third Community Support package in the Budget 2020-21.

Rates adjustment

To keep delivering essential services and projects, the budget applies a 2 per cent rate increase, in line with the state government's Fair Go Rates System. While this would normally generate additional revenue of approximately \$2 million, we are implementing a rate adjustment to redirect approximately \$2.2 million in funds back to ratepayers. This means rates notices for 2020-21, when compared to the previous year, will on average decrease by 1.91 per cent for commercial properties and decrease by 0.02 per cent for industrial properties.

These rate decreases may include a rebate of \$200 and

\$915 for eligible commercial and industrial properties, respectively. The rebates will be automatically included in the rates notice. If businesses have been materially impacted by COVID-19 and haven't received the rebate they can apply through Council's Hardship Policy.

Rent relief in Council buildings

Commercial tenants in Council buildings will be provided rent relief, email property@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au for details.

Negotiating rent relief with your landlord

For advice on negotiating rent deductions with your landlord, call the Victorian Small Business Commission on 13 87 22 or visit www.vsbcb.vic.gov.au

Financial hardship

If you are experiencing financial hardship and can no longer pay your rates, interest, fees and charges for your business, you can apply for financial assistance. The Financial Hardship Policy has been refreshed with various options available for rate deferral through to waivers depending on the financial circumstances of the business. Apply online at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance or call Council on 1300 179 944.

Residents wanting assistance in their first language can call Council's Language Line on 9932 1212 and ask to speak with an interpreter.

Community Support Package 3

Council will waive the following permit fees for businesses within Hobsons Bay for 2020-21:

- Food registrations
- Health registrations
- Footpath trading permits
- Planning permit fees

Businesses will still need to renew their registrations for food, health and footpath trading permits using the following steps but no payment of fees will be required.

Food and Health Registrations

The eHealth Portal is now open for renewals of Food Act 1984 registrations at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/BusinessRegistrationRenewal. Renewals are due by 30 September. Renewal for Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 registrations will open on 1 October and are due by 31 December.

Footpath trading permits

The Greenlight Portal is now open to register footpath trading permits at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/FootpathTrading. All local traders must comply with the Footpath Trading Code of Practice to ensure there is clear, safe and unobstructed footpath access for pedestrians of all abilities.

Planning permits

All planning permits and fees associated with small businesses are also being waived. Please call Council on 1300 179 944 to find out what's required.

Nelson Place and Williamstown Beach Parking

Paid parking will continue to be suspended in Nelson Place until 31 December 2020. Customers of businesses at Williamstown Beach will also be provided dedicated permits from vendors for free parking during this period.

External financial support

Financial and Consumer Rights Council of Victoria (FCRC) can help you find a financial counsellor. Visit www.fcrc.org.au for details.

The National Debt Helpline provides free, confidential counselling for people experiencing financial difficulty. Visit www.ndh.org.au or call 1800 007 007 for more information.

State and federal support

Business Victoria provides state government support initiatives. Visit www.business.vic.gov.au/

Treasury provides information about federal assistance. Visit treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/businesses

Energy networks are supporting customers enduring hardship as a result of the pandemic. Visit www.energynetworks.com.au



**HOBSONS BAY
LANGUAGE LINE**

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES
Your Council in your language

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



DID YOU KNOW COUNCIL DELIVERS A RANGE OF SERVICES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES?

If you do business in Hobsons Bay, be sure to take advantage of . . .

Hobsons Bay Business has Heart

A project to assist businesses and build on the localised sentiment that has flourished during the recent restrictions with the aim of getting locals back to their local businesses. Grant funding of \$250,000 will be available to groups of businesses along with access to communications, marketing and graphic design services. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HBBusinesshasHeart

Hobsons Bay Business website

A dedicated website that provides detailed information on operating a business in Hobsons Bay, as well as upcoming events, promotions, resources, funding and support. Visit www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au

Amended Services Directory

A comprehensive list of local businesses that are operating throughout lockdown, encouraging locals to Shop Hobsons Bay. To list your business, or update your details visit www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au

Business e-Works newsletter

Keep up to date with the latest news and updates with the monthly Hobsons Bay Business e-Works newsletter www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Do-Business/Business-e-Works-newsletter

Business Directory

A free directory of local businesses at www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au

Hobsons Bay Business Network Facebook group

A private group that provides a range of support for local businesses, as well as legal, financial and practical advice. To join, visit www.facebook.com/groups/hobsonsbaybusinessnetwork

Investment support

Support for businesses looking to expand their operations or relocate within Hobsons Bay. This includes identifying opportunity sites, connecting businesses with landowners and providing planning advice. Email business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Trader support

Through its annual budget, Council supports local trader associations to deliver marketing initiatives in four key retail precincts, including Altona, Laverton, Newport and Williamstown. For more information on local trader associations, visit www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au

Grant finder

A comprehensive list of current grant opportunities available. Businesses can register to be notified when new grants become available that match their needs. Visit www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Do-Business/Grant-Finder

Hobsons Bay Works LinkedIn Group

An open platform for businesses owners from across Hobsons Bay to share information and connect with each other. Search for 'Hobsons Bay Works' at www.linkedin.com

Events and workshops

An annual program of targeted seminars, workshop and networking events. For details visit www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Business-Events

Sustainability subsidies

Subsidies to upgrade lighting and install solar power. Businesses can also access Council finance to help fund environmental upgrades. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Do-Business/Business-Sustainability

Free mentoring advice

Free business mentoring session with the Small Business Mentoring Service. For details, email business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Council's Economic Development Team is here to support you on 1300 179 944 or at business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

