

Queensland State Government COVID-19 Response March 2020

On 17 March, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres-Strait Islander Partnerships, The Hon. Jackie Trad MP announced in conjunction with Premier and Minister for Trade, The Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP \$500 million for a concessional loan facility to ease the effects of COVID-19 on Queensland businesses and keep employees working.

The loan facility will comprise of businesses being able to apply for up to \$250,000 concessional loan with an interest free period of 12 months.

The Palaszczuk Government also announced a \$27.25 million assistance package and payroll tax deferrals for small and medium sized businesses of up to \$20,500 per month until July 2020 to help businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Businesses will not need to lodge or pay payroll tax payments until July 31 2020.

Following the Federal Government's mandatory self-isolation requirement on all travelers returning from overseas, the Premier said police were continuing to check people who had been placed in quarantine to ensure they were complying with requirements. Fines of up to \$13,000 can be given to people who fail to comply with the conditions.

The Palaszczuk Government has also announced \$8 million in waived rental payments which will assist small-to-medium sized businesses who are tenants based in Queensland Government Arts facilities through to December 2020.

The Queensland State Government will also be introducing new laws to assist supermarkets with restocking efforts, allowing retailers to operate loading docks 24 hours a day when necessary. The laws will be in effect over the coming days.

Queensland was the first state in Australia to make emergency declarations on 29 January 2020. The Palaszczuk Government acted quickly to strengthen legislation to ensure public safety.

The joint statement from the Premier and Treasurer can be read [here](#).

More information on the Palaszczuk Government's concessional loan facility will be available at the end of this week [here](#).

More information on the Palaszczuk Government's payroll tax relief available [here](#).



More information on the Palaszczuk Government's rental waiver for businesses based at arts facilities can be found [here](#).

More information on the Palaszczuk Government's supermarket restocking laws can be found [here](#).

Further information

For further information, contact your Hawker Britton consultant: [Eamonn Fitzpatrick](#) Queensland Director on +61 401 719 488 or [Harrison Thompson](#), Policy and Business Analyst.