

ACT COVID-10 Stimulus Package

March 2020

On Friday 20 March 2020 the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Chief Minister and Treasurer, Andrew Barr MLA, delivered the ACT Government Economic Support Package to counter the economic effects of COVID-19.

The Support Package will inject \$137 million into the ACT economy. It will prioritise the support of households and business by way of taxation and fee relief.

The Treasurers media release is available [here](#).

Key initiatives include:

- A \$150 rebate to the fixed charge component of all residential rates bills (\$25.5 million)
- Freezing the Fire and Emergency Services Levy at its 2019-20 level for all residential properties (\$2.2 million in 2020-21, \$9.2 million over 4 years for residential and commercial)
- Freezing all 2020-21 vehicle registration, parking and public transport fees at 2019-20 levels (\$5 million 2020-21, \$21.7 million over 4 years)
- Providing a \$200 rebate to approximately 35,000 households receiving the Utilities Concession, through their electricity bill (\$7 million)
- Supporting businesses and commercial property owners with taxation and fee relief

Local business support:

- Rebate of the 2019-20 commercial rates fixed charge for commercial properties with an Average Unimproved Value of less than \$2 million to a maximum value of \$2,622 (\$16.2 million)
- Rebate of \$750 to small businesses through their next electricity bill (\$9.8 million)
- Hotels, clubs, pubs, restaurants and cafes, businesses in the creative arts and entertainment sectors will receive a one-off, six month waiver of payroll tax (\$5.8 million)
- All food business registration and on-licence liquor licensing fees will be waived for twelve months from 1 April 2020 (\$3.6 million)
- All ACT businesses with Australia-wide wages of up to \$10 million can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax, interest free until 1 July 2022 (nil direct cost, estimated to free up \$100 million in cashflow)
- Freezing the Fire and Emergency Services Levy for commercial properties in 2020-21 (\$2.2 million in 2020-21, \$9.2 million over 4 years for residential and commercial)
- Rideshare fees will be waived for 12 months from 1 April 2020 (\$200,000)
- Waiving taxi licences fees for 12 months from 1 April 2020 (\$880,000)
- Waiving all outdoor dining fees in 2020-21 (\$85,000)

Small and medium sized local business support:

- Rapid rollout of 'screwdriver ready' minor capital works projects (\$20 million)
- Urban forest and other public realm maintenance functions to assist in the redeployment of staff (\$3 million)

Community/Industry support:

- Community Support Package for non-government organisation partners to meet increased service demand for emergency relief (\$7 million)
- Public Housing Rent rebate of \$250 (\$3 million)



- Additional support for the Vocational Education and Training Sector (\$2 million)
- Community Club Support to keep staff employed on the clubs award rate (\$1.5 million)
- Increased grants for our arts community – Homefront (\$500,000)
- Lifeline initiative allow Lifeline to answer an additional 1,000 calls for help each month (\$100,000)

The Government will also accelerate the payments for invoices for local enterprises (\$1.3 million indirect lost interest costs).

Further information

The Business Liaison Team phone line has been created to assist businesses understand the support available to them through the ACT Economic Survival Package and practical advice for businesses operating through changed arrangements due to COVID-19.

The number businesses can call is: (02) 6205 0900

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant [Simon Banks](#) on +61 419 638 587.