

Northern Territory Government's COVID-19 Economic Response March 2020

On 18 March the Northern Territory Government delivered their economic response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Gunner administration will deliver a \$65 million Jobs Rescue & Recovery Plan to protect employers and their workers from the deep economic impacts of the coronavirus.

This is the second economic package the Territory Government has announced, following a \$2 million Tourism Resilience Plan to protect tourism businesses and jobs. The Territory Government has also not ruled out a potential third package to assist businesses and employees if required.

Chief Minister, Michael Gunner announced that the Jobs Rescue & Recovery Plan will be rolled out across the Territory within two weeks with the money to be spent over the next six months.

The \$65 million Jobs Rescue & Recovery Plan includes:

\$20 million Business Improvement Scheme

- Aimed at helping businesses get customers back into premises by undertaking improvements to a Territory business. All eligible businesses will receive \$10,000. If the recipient also wants to put in their own \$10,000, they will then get an additional \$10,000 from the Government. This creates a \$30,000 grant (with business pitching in \$10,000 of their own money). The upgrades and purchases have to be from another Territory business.

\$5 million Business Structural Adjustment package

- Assists businesses who need to adjust to the 100 person rule or to establish or upgrade their online presence to adjust to changing behaviours of consumption. The Chief Minister has directed public servants to personally speak with affected local businesses. All businesses can apply, but the Department will be focusing on the hospitality sector first

\$5 million Immediate Works Grants Package

- This package reintroduces the Immediate Works Grant for incorporated not-for-profit and community organisations – including clubs - to undertake repairs, renovations and upgrades to their premises/facilities. Applicants can apply for grants of up to \$50,000, which will then be matched dollar-for-dollar if the organisation also puts in their own \$50,000. Up to \$200,000 on a dollar-for-dollar matching basis for amounts above \$100,000



\$30 million Home Improvement Scheme

- \$6000 grant for Territory homeowners and landlords who also contribute \$2000, and a \$4000 grant with a \$1000 contribution.

Freezing Government Fees and Charges and Electricity Prices

- All Government fees and charges – including electricity, water and car registration will be frozen (no increase due to indexation) until 1 July 2021. Electricity prices for small and medium businesses (those paying regulated tariffs) will be frozen from 1 July 2020 (no increase due to indexation) until 1 July 2021.

Chief Minister, Michael Gunner has also announced increased funding to tourism marketing, encouraging Territorians to holiday at home.

The Chief Minister has engaged industry and small businesses to ensure that the package will meet desired requirements to ensure that employers and their staff will be as protected as possible during these times.

More information on the Northern Territory COVID-19 Economic Response 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.