

Update: Queensland Government COVID-19 Response April 2020

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's government has been implementing a substantial package to help businesses in Queensland as part of the economic response to COVID-19. This includes stimulus, financial support and other assistance for companies and their employees. Key changes were included in legislation passed by the Queensland Parliament on Wednesday, 22 April 2020.

Hawker Britton's occasional papers covering the Palaszczuk Government's economic assistance packages can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#).

Business Assistance

The Palaszczuk Government has established a \$4 billion COVID-19 package to support jobs, businesses, and the health of Queenslanders.

Pay Roll Tax Relief

- Refunds of payroll tax for 2 months
- A payroll tax holiday for 3 months
- Deferral of paying payroll tax for the 2020 calendar year.
- As part of this relief package, the refund and payroll tax holiday do not have to be repaid.

Land Tax Deferrals, Rebates and Commercial Tenancy Relief

- A land tax rebate reducing land tax liabilities by 25% for eligible properties for the 2019-20 assessment year
- A waiver of the 2% land tax foreign surcharge for foreign entities for the 2019-20 assessment year
- A 3-month deferral of land tax liabilities for the 2020-21 assessment year.
- Any land tax relief provided to commercial landlords must be passed onto eligible tenants.

Electricity Bill Relief

- Sole traders, small and medium businesses that consume less than 100,000 kilowatt hours will get a \$500 rebate on their power bill,
- The rebate will be automatically applied on business electricity bills.

Business Assistance Finder

The Queensland State Government has also established a business assistance finder for businesses who have been affected by COVID-19. The tool assists in identifying what support a business may be eligible for.

The business assistance finder can be accessed [here](#).



Government Supply Chain Measures

The Queensland Government is supporting Queensland manufacturers through recovery programs designed to source Queensland made goods.

The Palaszczuk Government is urging businesses to register their capabilities and capacity to receive assistance with supply chain matching and support, as well as having created a manufacturer supply matching request form to help solve difficulties in getting vital materials and supplies.

The Queensland Government has started working with local manufacturers to supply elements to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure supply of PPE is met across Queensland.

Businesses can register their interest in supplying specific PPE products or elements [here](#).

Businesses can register their capability and capacity [here](#).

Supply chain matching request forms can be found [here](#).

Public Policy

The Queensland Government was the first to act in preparedness for the COVID-19 outbreak. In January 2020, Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr. Jeanette Young, was administered special public emergency powers through the Public Health Act 2005.

Queensland's borders remain closed, with all non-essential travel banned, as well as the passage through Queensland's borders without an approved border pass.

On Sunday 26 April, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced that from Saturday 2 May the Queensland Government will lift some of its stay-at-home directions, allowing Queenslanders to:

- Go for a drive up to 50 kilometers from their home
- Go shopping for non-essential goods
- Have a picnic
- Ride a motorbike, jet ski or boat for pleasure
- Visit a national park

All activities must still adhere to social distancing rules.

Residential tenancy relief is now available to Queenslanders who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless and meet eligibility criteria, in the form of a crisis payment of up to \$500 a week for up to four (4) weeks (\$2000 maximum).



Changes in Queensland Parliament

The Queensland Parliament welcomed two new members to the House of Representatives on Wednesday 22 April. Lance McCallum (Labor) and Laura Gerber (Liberal National) were sworn into office for the respective seats of Bundamba and Currumbin following the two by-elections held on March 28.

More information and eligibility criteria on pay roll tax relief can be found [here](#).

More information and eligibility criteria on land tax deferrals and rebates can be found [here](#).

More information and eligibility criteria on commercial tenancy relief can be found [here](#).

More information electricity bill relief can be found [here](#).

More information and eligibility criteria on residential tenancy relief can be found [here](#).

The Premier's statement on easing of stay-at-home restrictions can be found [here](#).

Media statements from Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick MP regarding Queensland Manufacturing and Supply Chains can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Further information

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