

30 May 2021

Victorian Government COVID-19 Response: Circuit-Breaker Action - Business Support Package

On Sunday, 30 May Acting Premier James Merlino and Victorian Treasurer Tim Pallas announced financial support for businesses impacted by Victoria's 'Circuit-Breaker' lockdown.

The **\$250 million Circuit Breaker Support Package** is designed to assist more than 90,000 Victorian businesses. The assistance program will run through until 11:59pm on Thursday, 3 June.

The package contains three targeted initiatives:

- **\$190 million** for the **Business Costs Assistance Program**, which offers grants of \$2,500 for eligible businesses in the hospitality, food wholesaling, tourism, events and selected retail industries. Grants of \$2500 for eligible businesses including cafes; event suppliers; and grants of \$3500 for licensed venues.
- **\$40.7 million** for a new round of the **Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund** will provide businesses holding an eligible liquor licence and food certificate with a \$3,500 grant per premises.
- **\$20 million** will be dedicated to **supporting operators in the events industry** who have incurred losses due to the circuit-breaker restrictions. More details on the events industry support package will be provided in early June.

Business Costs Assistance Program

The new [Business Costs Assistance Program](#) will support businesses with costs incurred as a result of the circuit breaker action.

Eligible businesses with an annual payroll of up to \$3 million can receive a one-off grant of \$2000 whether they have employees or not.

Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund – Circuit Breaker Action Payment

Eligible businesses who received a grant through the [Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund](#) will receive a further one-off payment of \$3500 to help with costs incurred as a result of the circuit breaker action.

Businesses that receive this payment will not be eligible to receive a grant from the Business Costs Assistance Program.

Registration

Businesses can register their interest in the Business Costs Assistance Program at business.vic.gov.au so they can be notified when applications open this week. Operators eligible for the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund payment will be contacted directly by email in coming days.

The new package builds on more than \$6 billion in direct economic support from the Labor Government to help businesses get through the pandemic, including three previous rounds of the Business Support Fund.



Economic Outlook

April figures show unemployment continued to fall, reaching 5.5%, alongside underemployment which fell to 7.7%.

The Victorian economy is forecast to grow 6.5% in the next year, with the State Government forecasting a cash operating surplus within the 2022-2023 financial year.

Further Information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant, Victorian Director, JP Blandthorn on +61 407 366 304, Policy and Business Analyst, Raphael Mengem at rmengem@hawkerbritton.com, or Policy and Business Analyst Millie Boag at mboag@hawkerbritton.com.

Further Hawker Britton Occasional Papers on the activities of the Victorian Government are available [here](#).

For further coverage of Labor Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Hawker Britton Briefs [here](#).

For further coverage of Liberal Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic see Barton Deakin Briefs [here](#).