

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Tasmanian councils are considering or undertaking the following measures to relieve the impact on the local community.

Measures are intended to reduce the financial impact on ratepayers and local businesses while working to stimulate the local economy. Decisions are ongoing and this document will be updated periodically to reflect additional measures, but we recommend connecting with councils directly for more information.

Key: Red Proposed Measures; Green Endorsed Measures

1 September 2020

Council	Rates rebates, discounts or waivers (Business vs Residential)	Flexible payment terms. Treatment of Interest, Late Payment Fees, Charges, Debt Collection	Rent Relief	Grants	Rate setting for 20-21	Other	Council Website for relief and service information
BREAK O'DAY As at 17.08.20	Rates Hardship Assistance Policy. Provide a 100% remission of the general rates charge for a period of six (6) months for several groups within the Commercial Rates Category (i.e.	Waive penalties and interest on the 4th Instalment of the 2019-20 Rates. The instalment is due on 5 May 2020. Waive fees for the annual registration of Food Premises for	Waive lease fees for commercial premises leased from Council for a 6-month period commencing 1 April 2020		Deliver an Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/2021 financial year based on a 0% General Rate increase.	Refocus Council resources where possible to assist with supporting the community and community organisations through this period. Actively work with event organisers to	https://www.bodc.tas.gov.au/community/covid-19-information/

	<p>accommodation, hospitality, retail). Some business types will be excluded and/or assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>a period of 6 months.</p> <p>Reduce the fee for new Planning & Building Applications (excluding Discretionary Application Advertising Fee and Building Surveying Fees) by 50% from 1 May 2020 to 1 November 2020.</p> <p>That Council waive brochure display fees at the St Helens Visitor Information Centre (VIC) for the Break O’Day Municipality businesses for 2020/2021.</p> <p>Discount period for dog registrations extended until the end of July.</p>				<p>reschedule events and resolve event sponsorship funding arrangements for cancelled events as well as to develop new events.</p> <p>Develop infrastructure projects to a ‘shovel ready’ stage to provide employment and support economic activity.</p>	
<p>BRIGHTON As at 16.06.20</p>		<p>Flexible arrangements have been put in place for anybody in financial hardship.</p>	<p>Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship</p>	<p>Community grants to be refocused as appropriate to support local businesses and not-for-profit recovery or</p>	<p>A 0% rate increase for 20/21 but fees and charges may be increased only up to CPI.</p>	<p>Support favourably loan guarantees, subject to Council approval, for community groups where it can be</p>	<p>https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/community/important-information-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/</p>

		<p>Invoices for small and local businesses are being paid immediately and not up to payment terms.</p> <p>Debt collection suspended until June 30, 2020.</p> <p>Any accumulation of interest on outstanding rates until June 30, 2020 has been stopped.</p>	until 30 June 2020.	conversion to digital environment or circular economy until June 30 2021	Move the rate instalment due dates back when preparing the 2020/2021 rate resolution.	demonstrated that financial hardship is current, but the long-term operating position is stable to June 2021.	
<p>BURNIE</p> <p>As at 18.08.20</p>	<p>Adopting the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy to support ratepayers that are in serious financial hardship associated with COVID-19, and review by June 2021.</p>	<p>Reviewing the suspension of penalty and interest on rates and charges to 30 June 2020 and determine to cease this initiative from 1 July 2020, with exemptions to be considered by the General Manager upon receipt of an application by ratepayers under the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy.</p> <p>Providing an early payment discount of 2.5% in 2020-</p>	<p>Delegating its powers and functions under s77 of the Local Government Act 1993 to the General Manager, with a limit in relation to protected commercial leases of rent waivers no more than 50% of the annual commercial rent, and rent deferral plans to be no greater than two years; and negotiations to be in accordance</p>		<p>Delivering the Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/2021 financial year based on a 0% general rate increase.</p> <p>Deferring the 2020-21 rates to be paid in the following instalments on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 30 Nov 2020 o 31 January 2021 o 31 March 2021 o 31 May 2021 	<p>Providing a period of 2 hour free parking in the Multi Story Car Park to promote a return to business in the town centre and to commence once the State Government's 'Gatherings' restrictions are lifted, to run for a period of three months, to be reviewed at the conclusion of this time.</p> <p>Introducing the first hour free in the MSCP for a</p>	<p>https://www.burnie.net/Community/Services-and-Programs/Public-Health-and-Safety/Coronaviruses</p>

		<p>21 if rates and charges are paid in full by the 31st October 2020.</p> <p>For a limited time, amend the limitation of its existing delegation to the General Manager for writing off bad debts, with the following delegation: That Council delegate its powers and functions under s76 of the Local Government Act 1993 to the General Manager, with a limit of \$5,000 per debt, in place until 30 June 2021, after which time the limit will return to \$500 or any other value as determined by Council at that time.</p> <p>Waiving all winter sport fees on community groups for the 2020 winter season.</p>	<p>with the provisions of the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Commercial Leases) Act 2020 and Regulations thereunder.</p> <p>Waiving of community lease payments in 2020-21.</p> <p>Suspending the provision in the Community Lease Policy to reimburse Council for insurances charges for 2019-20 and 2020-21.</p> <p>Conversion of the Zodiacs Gymnastics Club to a community lease and apply the above community lease support arrangements.</p>			<p>period of one year starting from the day on which the Tasmanian Government revokes restrictions on the movement and gathering of people.</p> <p>Developing a promotions and events program to support the community in its recovery from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p>	
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		<p>Waiver of fees associated with registering food shop licences for 2020-21 and waiver of fees (excluding energy costs for connection to an electricity supply) for use of Council land by a mobile food vendor.</p> <p>Provision of enhanced opportunity for outdoor dining as a means for restaurants and cafes to increase their trading area during the 2020/21 financial year by – a) waiver of the applicable street dining fee; and b) extension of the outdoor dining area beyond the frontage of the food premises where circumstances of the locality allow.</p> <p>Waiver of fees for registration of a public health risk premises under</p>					
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		<p>the Public Health Act 1997 during the 20/21 financial year.</p> <p>Waiver of testing fee for primary contact water for two samples required under the Public Health Act 1997 prior to reopening of a closed swimming pool.</p> <p>Receive residential green waste free of charge (to a maximum of 3m3 per resident) at the Waste Management Centre from the easing of Government social distancing restrictions for a period of 3 months, to be reviewed at the conclusion of this time.</p>					
<p>CENTRAL COAST As at 17.08.20</p>	<p>Financial Hardship Assistance Policy adopted.</p>	<p>No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended</p>	<p>Rent relief on Council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship</p>	<p>Community grants to be refocussed as appropriate to support local business and not</p>	<p>A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-2021 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI.</p>	<p>As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a</p>	<p>http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/</p>

		<p>payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020</p>	<p>until 30 June 2020</p> <p>Rental relief for Community groups and Organisations using Council facilities and for rental of Council properties used for business purposes from the commencement of the impact of COVID-19 until 30 June 2020 where further extensions will be considered at that time.</p>	<p>for profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy until 30 June 2021.</p>		<p>timely manner, council will settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.</p> <p>Seek the option of relaxing depreciation requirements or extending standard asset life for 2020-2021 upon agreed criteria with the Auditor General (including asset condition) and subject to the Auditor General adjusting financial indicators accordingly.</p> <p>Community Social Support implementation.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p>	
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<p>CENTRAL HIGHLANDS As at 16.06.20</p>	<p>Adoption of Financial Hardship Assistance Policy and Commercial Addendum.</p>	<p>No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>Community grants to be refocussed as appropriate to support local business and not for profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy until 30 June 2021.</p>	<p>A 0% increase on general rates, fees and charges for 2020-21.</p>	<p>As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a timely manner, council will endeavour to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.</p>	<p>http://centralhighlands.tas.gov.au/</p>
<p>CIRCULAR HEAD As at 20.08.20</p>		<p>Waiving all food licence fees for the 20/21 financial year.</p>		<p>Establish a business support fund and community recovery program.</p>	<p>A zero per cent rate increase for the next financial year.</p>	<p>Invest in an economic development officer to support recovery post-COVID-19.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Procurement / Code of Tenders review to incorporate new suppliers.</p>	

<p>CLARENCE As at 10.08.20</p>	<p>Council approved a new COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy that will provide the basis for the General Manager (or delegate) to assess hardship claims in relation to the payment of rates.</p>	<p>Council will not apply penalties, charges, interest or undertake debt collection for late rate payments until at least 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>In accordance with the new Hardship Policy, council will provide rental relief on council-owned buildings and other premises where tenants and/or leaseholders are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>Endorses the carry-forward of unspent funds from the FY2019/20 Estimates to the FY2020/21 Estimates, totally \$150,000, for reallocation as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amount of \$35,000 to supplement the FY2020/21 budget allocation (\$65,000) for Community Support and Partnership Grants – totalling \$100,000; • An amount of \$60,000 to fund practical homelessness initiatives within Clarence, in partnership with relevant not-for-profit organisations and in accordance with the 	<p>Council will adopt a zero% rate increase of the general rate by fixing the general rate for the upcoming financial year (FY2020/21).</p> <p>Any increase to fees and charges limited to a maximum of Hobart CPI (for the 12 month period to the end of March 2020).</p>	<p>As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into the local economy in a timely manner, council will settle creditor invoices within 14 days of receipt (or sooner), irrespective of normal or contracted trading terms.</p> <p>COVID-19 Social Recovery Action Plan to support and facilitate the safety, welfare, health, and wellbeing of the community during the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>https://www.ccc.tas.gov.au/</p>
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				<p>Clarence City Council COVID19 Social Recovery Plan; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The balance of funds (\$55,000) to fund any additional expenditure required to deliver the objectives and actions identified in the Clarence City Council COVID-19 Social Recovery Action Plan. 			
<p>DERWENT VALLEY As at 20.08.20</p>	<p>Financial Hardship Policy to support ratepayers that are in serious financial hardship associated with COVID-19, and review by June 2021.</p>	<p>Encourage payment arrangements to enable residents to apply to repay their rates and charges over an extended period in response to financial hardship.</p> <p>Suspend all debt recovery actions against community</p>	<p>Review the capacity of lessees of council properties to continue to meet lease or license fees and suspend debt recovery action in the meantime</p>	<p>Endorse in principle the community grants program being refocused to support local business and not for profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy during 2020/2021.</p>	<p>In April 2020, Council adopted a Community Support Package which comprises a number of relief measures and included a resolution to “Endorse in principle a 0% increase to rate or waste service charges for 2020/2021”</p>	<p>Deliver an exceptional community arts event (Ten Days on the Island 2021) in the Derwent Valley that will support the community’s social and economic recovery post-COVID-19.</p>	<p>http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au/page.aspx</p>

		<p>members for the remainder of this financial year (for outstanding rates and charges or outstanding invoices) with the exception of where Council has endorsed legal proceedings to commence (DN 269/2019) and regulatory enforcement action (i.e. MPES for Infringement Notices).</p> <p>Waive dog registration fees until 30 June 2021 while maintaining the requirement to register all dogs.</p> <p>Waive the fee to obtain a Kennel Licence until 30 June 2021 while maintaining the requirement to obtain the licence.</p> <p>Waive fees for food licences and health inspections until 30 June 2021 while maintaining the</p>			<p>The recommended increase in rate revenue for 2020/2021 is 3.95%, however in line with the above resolution, Council's 2020/2021 Budget includes a COVID-19 Rate Relief Rebate to offset the recommended increase in General Rates.</p>		
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		licencing and registration requirements.					
DEVONPORT As at 24.08.20	Hardship Policy, including deferral of rate payments for six months.	<p>Waived ground fees for sporting clubs and business licence fees.</p> <p>Waived parking fees across Devonport.</p> <p>Removing late payments fees for the April rates instalment if paid by 30 June 2020.</p> <p>No payment penalties or interest for late rate payments during the 2020 COVID-19 state of emergency until at least 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>Reduced rent for tenants in the hospitality industry.</p> <p>Waived rent outstanding for sports clubs.</p>		0% rate increase for 20/21 and freezing of fees and charges at current levels.	<p>Council has formed a COVID-19 Response Committee consisting of three Councillors and relevant senior staff to develop and implement strategies to provide assistance, support and relief for the inevitable hardship many in the community will experience during the crisis.</p> <p>Council paying suppliers within 14 days to improve business cash flow.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Adopted draft Social Recovery</p>	https://www.devonport.tas.gov.au/building-development/business-in-devonport/environmental-health/meeting-the-challenge-of-covid-19/

						Action Plan COVID-19.	
<p>DORSET As at 17.08.20</p>	<p>Rate relief for 6 months be provided to businesses occupying commercial premises (shops and offices), excluding the following businesses: supermarkets, banks, bottleshops, butchers, pharmacies, government, medical centres and post offices.</p> <p>Rate relief for 6 months be provided to community organisations adversely affected by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.</p> <p>Rate relief for 6 months be provided to tourism businesses which have been adversely</p>	<p>Waiving user charges for community groups using Council facilities (e.g. sporting groups).</p> <p>Waiving of the annual food license registration fee.</p> <p>Waiving of fees and charges on business related development approvals.</p>			<p>A 0% increase in rates and fees and charges for the 2020/2021 budget estimates.</p>	<p>Established Dorset Business Register on website.</p>	<p>https://www.dorset.tas.gov.au/news/2020/04/02/coronavirus-information-and-assistance/</p>

	affected by the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.						
FLINDERS As at 28.07.20	Council agrees to a common approach to hardship/assistance policies with LGAT to develop a model policy based on engagement with councils, which can be adapted to local needs if required.	There will be no penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020.	Council will consider rent relief and other strategies on council-owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship, until 30 June 2020. This will be done on a case-by-case basis on written application.	Community grants will be refocused as appropriate to support local business and not-for-profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy until 30 June 2021.	Council supports a 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21, but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI.	As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a timely manner, Council will strive to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms. Council may seek the option of relaxing depreciation requirements or extending standard asset life for 2020-21, upon agreed criteria with the Auditor General (including asset condition) and subject to the Auditor General adjusting financial indicators accordingly.	https://www.flinders.tas.gov.au/community-noticeboard/

<p>GEORGE TOWN As at 23.06.20</p>	<p>Rates Financial Hardship Policy has been designed to assist those rate payers who are experiencing significant hardship, by deferring rates and charges or the suspension of interest and penalties.</p>	<p>Zero increase to fees and charges for the 2020-21 financial year. These includes property development, health fees, animal licences, cemetery fees, tip fees, recreation grounds and buildings.</p> <p>Food Licence fee relief for businesses, community groups and sporting clubs that operate as a food business in the 2020-21 financial year</p> <p>Nil Charge to Community users of Council facilities - available to community members and user groups for a period of 6 months to 31 December 2020.</p> <p>Reducing development fees and charges by 50 per cent for 12</p>		<p>Introduction of additional Grant Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Recovery – Estimated funding allocation \$26K • Lifestyle Recovery – Estimated funding allocation \$20K • Small Business – Estimated Funding allocation \$50K 	<p>A zero per cent increase in general rates for the 2020/2021 financial year.</p>	<p>Re-direction of funding from existing services to deliver a range of community assistance initiatives, to support the more vulnerable members of our community.</p> <p>Immediate Response Initiatives not budgeted and have already been implemented as part of the Council’s duty of care to a crisis response</p> <p>Provide \$5000 to the \$700,000 circular economy platform being developed by Northern councils among other key stakeholders.</p> <p>Council has employed a small number of displaced workers from the hospitality and childcare</p>	<p>https://georgetown.tas.gov.au/</p>
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		<p>months; this excludes state government and building surveyor fees.</p>				<p>industries on a temporary basis.</p> <p>Council has delivered board games to disadvantaged families.</p> <p>\$60,000 worth of initiatives through various media and community support programs.</p> <p>Council has developed a number of online initiatives to address social isolation issues including Healthy Speak, Healthy George Town (online exercise videos) and will be launching a kid's activity portal this week which includes games, activities and education resources.</p> <p>Council is working with the local collective impact group on some initiatives that can address social</p>	
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						issues associated with COVID. Providing job security for employees.	
GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY As at 28.07.20	Financial Hardship Assistance Policy and endorsement of rate relief policies for community groups and religious organisations.	Suspended debt collection action on existing outstanding debts and accumulation of interest on outstanding rates until June 30. Will provide payment options for rates, charges and negotiate on other debts.			0 per cent increase in general rates for 2020-21.		https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/
GLENORCHY As at 27.07.20	Use of COVID-19 Financial Hardship Guidelines to streamline applications for relief on rates and charges under Council's hardship policy	Deferral of penalties and interest on overdue rates incurred during the COVID-19 emergency period Refunding fees and charges for Council facilities that have had to close or events that have had to be cancelled.	Waiver of rent for grassroots community and sporting organisations Partial waiver and/or deferral of commercial rents for eligible commercial tenants in accordance with the Covid-19 Rent Relief Guidelines for Tenants of Council Properties	'Can-Do Community Grants' and the 'Small Business eCommerce Grants' schemes.	Zero increase in general rates. No increase on 2020/21 rates bills for all Glenorchy ratepayers through introduction of a COVID-19 relief rebate for the 2020/21 year	Action a 'business support' package (although this doesn't involve any cash assistance or relief, and is instead focused on providing resources, engagement, promotion, and other support). Stimulus projects and faster payment cycle for supplier accounts.	https://www.gcc.tas.gov.au/articles/gcc-coronavirus-response---rolling-updates.aspx#.XpVOtnduJbU

<p>HOBART As at 10.08.20</p>	<p>Financial Hardship Policy.</p>	<p>An amendment to the existing policy to allow postponement of rates payments to ratepayers experiencing hardship.</p> <p>Deferral of penalties and interest for the fourth instalment of 2019-20 rates payments for ratepayers experiencing hardship.</p> <p>Waiving of fees, such as for outdoor dining and food licences, for businesses experiencing hardship.</p> <p>Freeze on fees and charges for 2020-21.</p>	<p>Rent relief for tenants of City-owned premises who are experiencing hardship.</p>	<p>Resilient Hobart grants to support community and creative projects that connect the community.</p> <p>Provision of additional Quick Response Grants to support businesses and creative industries, including an eCommerce grant (\$300 per business capped at 100 successful applicants) to help small retail businesses with financial assistance to help them sell their goods online.</p> <p>Business and Creative Industries grants to be established with funds previously allocated to Dark MOFO.</p>	<p>No increase to general rates and charges for 2020-21 (exception is fixed service charges for FOGO and recycling, which are determined by actual service costs).</p>	<p>Strengthening the City's commitment to local procurement.</p> <p>Business assistance program (\$160k).</p> <p>Developed Salamanca Market online.</p> <p>Hobart Together initiative aiming to connect people with the services they need, provide advice and information around staying healthy mentally and physically, and offer support through grants and other measures.</p> <p>Relaxing of parking time limits in 1P and 2P regulated on-street parking zones.</p> <p>Free or discounted parking for hospital staff at the Argyle Street car park.</p>	<p>https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Community/Public-health/COVID19updates/community-support-package</p>
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						COVID-19 economic recovery framework and action plan to guide the recovery process.	
HUON VALLEY As at 15.07.20	Adoption of Financial Hardship and Payment Assistance Policy.	Council resolves to not apply penalty and interest charges on outstanding rates until 30 June 2020. Provisions for penalty and interest charges for the 2020/2021 financial year will be considered in development of the rates resolution for the year taking into account any Financial Hardship/Assistance Policy adopted by Council as set out in this Resolution. Council creditor payments to be made within 14 days irrespective of normal trading terms.	Council will consider, on an individual basis, applications for rent relief on Council owned buildings where Lessees are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.	In principle support for the development of a community grants program to support local businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger Together Quick Response Community Grants; and • Community Capacity Building and Local Business Grant Program. 	Council's 20/21 budget preparations take into account the following principles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A nil general rate increase; 2. Rate service charges to be reflective of cost (so may increase); 3. Fees and charges may be increased taking into account CPI, costs or other relevant actors; and 4. Options for relaxing depreciation requirements be explored 	Huon Valley COVID-19 Recovery Model and Action Plan.	https://www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au/services/my-community/community-safety/stronger-together/

					based upon any criteria agreed with the Auditor-General.		
KENTISH As at 18.08.20	Adoption of Financial Hardship Assistance Policy and Application.	No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020. Holding of accounts owing by clubs / organisations to the Council. All Council statutory fees and fines have been frozen in response to Covid-19.	Rent relief on Council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020. A lease holiday for clubs / organisations using Council sporting facilities for the period 23rd March 2020 until 30th September 2020.	Council will refocus the existing community grants to assist eligible clubs and organisations with COVID-19 recovery support in the fields of community cohesion, social inclusion, youth initiatives, community health and wellbeing. Council is releasing a new Business Recovery Assistance grant that will focus on supporting activities for businesses and events that respond to recovering from COVID-19. The Event Assistance grants seeks to assist	A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI	Create a Local Municipal COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan Committee with the following objectives: I. To ensure information relevant to the local Kentish COVID-19 situation is shared effectively and in a timely manner between members of the Kentish COVID-19 Recovery Committee, North West Regional Social Recovery Committee (NWSRC) and the State Recovery	https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/covid-19

				<p>cultural, community and sporting groups to develop local events for an audience of 100 people (or more if restrictions ease further) for staging within the Kentish Municipality prior to 30 June 2021.</p>		<p>Committee (SRC)</p> <p>II. To develop and support community participation in local opportunities and programs that improve recovery outcomes for communities, including participation of groups with social disadvantage and financial and economic outcomes for businesses</p> <p>III. To ensure consistent and co-ordinated messaging to local communities, including vulnerable community members and those who do not have access to the internet</p> <p>IV. Identify government</p>	
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						<p>and non-government support in health and wellbeing services, financial and economic services who can be appropriately utilised to assist with recovery needs</p> <p>V. Development of long-term responses to recovery from the COVID-19 situation to assist communities to rebuild in a way that enhances resilience across social and economic values, including actively contributing to the State response.</p> <p>As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting</p>	
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						<p>funds into communities in a timely manner, Councils be encouraged to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.</p> <p>Seek the option of relaxing depreciation requirements or extending standard asset life for 2020-21 upon agreed criteria with the Auditor General (including asset condition) and subject to the Auditor General adjusting financial indicators accordingly.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the</p>	
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						impact of COVID-19.	
KINGBOROUGH As at 24.08.20	An Interim Hardship Policy has been approved and property owners may now apply online	No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020	Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.	Community grants to be refocused as appropriate to support local business and not for profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy until 30 June 2021.	A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI.	As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a timely manner, councils be encouraged to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.	https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/coronavirus/
KING ISLAND As at 18.08.20	2019/20 rates: Community information provided outlining an expanded financial hardship policy for final quarterly instalment, including possible rate remissions for businesses impacted by Government COVID-19 decisions.	Introduce extended rate payment plans, suspension or waiving of overdue charges or penalty interest, and - in the most serious cases - rate remissions.		Maintaining current grant program to assist community, recreation, and cultural groups.	Developing 2020/21 budget proposal based on no rate increase. Only minimal increases in service and user fees and charges are proposed.	Support for the Government's COVID-19 Program: Staff re-assigned from normal duties to support local biosecurity, police and volunteer emergency services. Business and community support: Staff re-assigned from normal duties to assist businesses and employees	https://kingisland.tas.gov.au/

						<p>access Government financial support packages and programs.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p>	
<p>LATROBE As at 10.08.20</p>	<p>A common approach to hardship/assistance policies with LGAT to develop a model policy based on engagement with Councils.</p>	<p>No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020</p>	<p>Rent relief on Council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020</p>	<p>Community grants to be refocussed as appropriate to support local business and not for profit recovery or conversion to a digital environment or circular economy until 30 June 2021</p>	<p>A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI</p>	<p>Created a Local Municipal COVID-19 Recovery Action Plan Committee with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. To ensure information relevant to the local Latrobe COVID-19 situation is shared effectively and in a timely manner between members of the Latrobe COVID-19 Recovery Committee, North West 	<p>https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/covid-19</p>

						<p>Regional Social Recovery Committee (NWRSRC) and the State Recovery Committee (SRC)</p> <p>II. To develop and support community participation in local opportunities and programs that improve recovery outcomes for communities, including participation of groups with social disadvantage and financial and economic outcomes for businesses</p> <p>III. To ensure consistent and co-ordinated messaging to local communities, including vulnerable community</p>	
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						<p>members and those who do not have access to the internet</p> <p>IV. Identify government and non-government support in health and wellbeing services, financial and economic services who can be appropriately utilised to assist with recovery needs</p> <p>V. Development of long-term responses to recovery from the COVID-19 situation to assist communities to rebuild in a way that enhances resilience across social and economic values, including actively</p>	
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						<p>contributing to the State response.</p> <p>As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a timely manner, Councils be encouraged to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p>	
<p>LAUNCESTON As at 20.08.20</p>	<p>Rates and Charges Hardship Policy.</p> <p>Provide a remission of the general rates charge for a period of six (6) months for the Commercial and Sport and</p>	<p>Waive fees for Food Business Registrations, Public Health Risk Activities, On-street Dining and Food vendors (mobile vans) for a period of 6 months.</p>		<p>Initiate a multi-faceted grants program, which will be delivered to City of Launceston businesses and groups, but which can be quickly expanded to other municipal</p>	<p>Deliver an Annual Plan and Budget for 2020/2021 financial year based on a 0% general rate increase.</p>	<p>Re-direct existing services to deliver a range of community assistance initiatives within the Launceston municipal area.</p> <p>Hold all applications for event</p>	<p>https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Emergency-Management/Meeting-the-challenge-of-COVID-19</p>

	<p>Recreation rates categories, with the exclusion of several groups (supermarkets, chemists, schools, UTAS owned buildings, etc.).</p> <p>In deciding to remit these rate charges, it is the clear intention of the Council that savings are to be passed along to business tenants to ease the pressure on small business and assist in their recovery.</p>	<p>Waive the minimum Development Application fee for a period of six months.</p> <p>Actively work with event organisers to reschedule all events and not require the return of any event sponsorship funds.</p> <p>Waive the venue and ground hire fees for Council managed grounds and public halls for local community and sporting groups until 2 October 2020.</p>		<p>areas if the respective council's elect to fund the program in their areas.</p> <p>The grants program will focus on digital innovation and circular economy initiatives, as follows:</p> <p>Digital Innovation: These grant(s) will provide small and medium sized business, sporting, cultural and community groups with the support to rapidly transition to alternate models of commerce, outreach and engagement, primarily digital solutions. This support will include <i>professional advice (level 1)</i> and <i>financial grants (level 2)</i> to provide and rapidly deploy a relevant front-end digital</p>		<p>sponsorship and community grants that recently closed and review assessment dates in 2 months' time.</p> <p>Commitment to keeping employees engaged in meaningful work and investigating options that include alternate duties within the organisation.</p> <p>A \$40 million accelerated capital works programme.</p>	
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				<p>solution to support their core business.</p> <p>Circular Economy: Grants will provide new opportunities for economic resilience and meaningful activity for displaced workers and develop as a springboard for innovation in the recovery period. These grants will further develop the circular economy concept from simple re-use to repair, re-make and revalue and in doing so develop longer term circular economy opportunities at scale.</p>			
<p>MEANDER VALLEY As at 11.08.20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a Financial Hardship Assistance Policy based on the LGAT model policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increases to Council's rates charges for the next financial year. • Community members 		<p>Community grants to help community and business recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Event Recovery grants: to 	Zero increase in rates for 2020-21.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will directly support community services provided by volunteers that are deemed to 	<p>https://www.meander.tas.gov.au/covid-19-support</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate waivers for commercial and recreational use properties. No charging of General rates charge from 1 April to 30 Sept 2020. 	<p>utilising Council's services and facilities will see no increases or CPI adjustments in fees for the next financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waive fees for Food Business Registrations, Temporary Food Stall Registrations and Food Vendors for the 2020-21 financial year All fees normally charged to operators, sporting clubs and community groups for Council facilities will cease, effective immediately. This arrangement will remain in 		<p>assist community groups to recover losses incurred for cancelled advertised events. This support also includes not requiring the return of any event sponsorship funds advanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifestyle Recovery grants: to assist not for profit community groups in developing community events that engage the community when emergency orders are lifted. Small Business Grants: to assist small business owners who 		<p>be at higher risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. Temporary community car drivers have been employed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council staff may also be re-deployed to provide additional support to community groups where needed. This is essential to ensure those who are not leaving their homes are supported. Council will process all early payment requests from creditors to ensure cash flow for businesses. Council will support local trades through a one off 	
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		<p>place until the COVID-19 emergency is declared over.</p>		<p>have incurred losses to maintain or recommence operations after being closed due to emergency order</p> <p>(Recommendations on grants will be made to Council in July 2020).</p>		<p>additional building maintenance program. By fast-tracking maintenance works across townships, Council will be assisting to provide opportunities for local companies where it is possible to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will also bring forward the planning and design of our 2021-22 capital works program so storm water, recreation and roadwork projects are ready to commence. • Council will also look to bring on trainees and apprentices to support 	
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						young people.	
NORTHERN MIDLANDS As at 17.08.20	<p>Adoption of the LGAT Financial Hardship Assistance Model Policy.</p> <p>A remission of the general rates for a period of four (4) months (1st instalment for 2020/21) for the Commercial and Sport and Recreation general rates categories (exclusions apply).</p>	<p>No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods (with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>After 1st April no interest be imposed on the current rates outstanding and no outstanding rates and charges or accounts be referred for legal recovery until 30th September 2020.</p> <p>Accounts owing by Clubs / Organisations to the Council to be held over until the 30th September 2020.</p> <p>Suspension of any increase for 2020/21 in planning, building fees and a fee holiday for health</p>	<p>Rent relief on Council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>A lease holiday be granted for sporting clubs/community groups and tenants using Council sporting/recreation facilities and premises for the period 1 April 2020 until 30th September 2020.</p>	<p>Expansion of the Special Event annual grant allocation to \$75,000 to help organisations recover from the cost of cancelled events and also to assist with the delivery of new community events during the recovery phase.</p> <p>Council is also considering introducing a community grant program to help support business innovation which would include a focus on the development of digital capability (i.e. on-line services) or anything that will help businesses implement a solution to help them keep doing business.</p> <p>COVID-19 compliance grant to assist events to</p>	<p>Council model its budget on a 0% increase in the General Rate in the dollar of AAV.</p>	<p>Council will await more details in the option for relaxation of depreciation requirements.</p> <p>Working with aged care services and disability service providers to identify any opportunities to assist or reduce the feelings of social isolation amongst their people.</p> <p>Settling of creditor invoices within a maximum of 10 days or sooner.</p>	https://www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/

		licensing fees for a period of 6 months (incl Food Business Registrations, public health risk activities, on-street dining, Food vendors – mobile vans).		implement the extra measures required for safety around COVID and physical distancing guidelines.			
SORELL As at 18.08.20	A common approach to hardship / assistance policies with LGAT to develop a model policy based on engagement with Councils.	No penalties, charges, interest for late rates payments and extended payment periods for ratepayers meeting hardship requirements up to the second rate instalment in October 2020 in accordance with the Financial Hardship Assistance Policy. Adopted a 50% reduction in fees and charges for permanent, community based use of Council's community facilities and grounds from 25 May 2020 until 30 June 2021.	Rent relief on Council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.	Community grants to be refocused as appropriate to support local business and not for profit recovery until 30 June 2021.	Sorell Council adopt a 0% increase on general rates, fees and charges for 2020-2021.	Creditor invoices will be settled within 14 days, irrespective of normal trading terms to support local businesses. Council will not alter current asset and financial management practices. Delivery of ongoing maintenance operations and 19/20 capital works.	https://www.sorell.tas.gov.au/covid-19-community-update/

<p>SOUTHERN MIDLANDS As at 15.07.20</p>	<p>Hardship Policy – includes automatic exclusion (or non-application) of the late penalty payment for the instalment due 31st March 2020 and non-calculation of penalty/interest until the 30th of September 2020.</p>				<p>0% general rate increase.</p>		<p>https://www.southernmidlands.tas.gov.au/</p>
<p>TASMAN As at 22.07.20</p>	<p>Approved Financial Hardship Policy. Approved the General Manager (or delegate) to assess rates hardship claims in relation to the payment of rates, under the newly adopted Financial Hardship Policy 2020.</p>	<p>That no penalties, interest, charges or debt collection for late rate payments will occur until 30 June 2020. Adopt a zero percentage (0%) increase for all Fees and Charges for the upcoming financial year 2020-21.</p>		<p>Refocus the Community Grants Program for 2020-21 to support local non-for-profit organisations and community organisations to recover their operations to help rebuild their future resilience, until 30 June 2021.</p>	<p>Adopt a zero percentage (0%) rate increase of the General Rate for the upcoming financial year 2020-21. Adopt a zero percentage (0%) rate increase of all Service Charges for the upcoming financial year 2020-21.</p>	<p>As a means of supporting local businesses recovery and inject funds into the local economy in a timely manner, settle all creditor invoices within 14 days of receipt (or sooner), irrespective of normal or contracted trading terms.</p>	<p>https://www.tasman.tas.gov.au/</p>
<p>WARATAH WYNYARD As at 17.08.20</p>	<p>Adopted a Financial Hardship Policy with immediate effect.</p>	<p>No penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rates payments and extended payment periods</p>	<p>Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship</p>	<p>Council have committed \$100,000 to fund a proposed Survive and Thrive Grants program. This</p>	<p>A 0% increase on general rates for 2020-21 but fees and charges may be indexed by CPI.</p>	<p>As a means of supporting local business recovery and injecting funds into communities in a timely manner,</p>	<p>http://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=626</p>

		<p>(with such measures in place) until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>An extension of the early payment discount period for the 2020/21 rating year to 31 October 2020.</p> <p>A 0% increase on fees and charges for 20/21.</p> <p>Waive all food licence fees to applicable businesses in 20/21.</p> <p>As a hardship offsetting measure, from 1 May 2020, or when the current COVID-19 restrictions in the North West are lifted, to 30 June 2020 amend the following Wynyard Waste Transfer Station Fees to \$0 for non-commercial customers upon proof of Waratah-Wynyard residency:</p>	<p>until 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>grants program is a practical way of supporting and strengthening local businesses and community groups to continue to provide services in our communities.</p> <p>The grant program is proposed to be divided into three distinct areas – Business Innovation, Tourism and Hospitality, and Community Activation.</p>		<p>councils be encouraged to settle creditor invoices within a maximum 14-day timeframe (or sooner), irrespective of normal trading terms.</p> <p>Seek the option of relaxing depreciation requirements or extending standard asset life for 2020-21 upon agreed criteria with the Auditor General (including asset condition) and subject to the Auditor General adjusting financial indicators accordingly.</p> <p>Request update reports as part of each Council agenda and review stimulus and support measures monthly to ensure their appropriateness until 30 August 2020.</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars / Station Wagons Wheelie Bins. 				<p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Community and economic recovery initiatives for seniors, people with disability, children/youth, families, and local businesses.</p>	
<p>WEST COAST As at 28.07.20</p>	<p>Adopted model hardship policy and commercial addendum and amended rates and remissions policy.</p> <p>Currently considering requests for remission or postponement of rates on a case by case basis. Contact the General Manager.</p> <p>Delegated 2019/2020 rates postponement (no interest) to</p>	<p>No parking fees.</p> <p>Refunds for all community and sporting groups (including gym members) who cannot use facilities.</p> <p>No interest/fees on outstanding 2019/2020 rates and ceased debt collection on 2019/2020 rates.</p>	<p>New rates remission scheme to promote new construction on the West Coast.</p>	<p>Advertised a flexible approach to our innovation grants (normally community groups but will consider business innovation now too).</p>	<p>Rates resolution with no rate rise set for the West Coast – the exception being those properties who may have a change of use on there property or those properties who may require a Supplementary Valuation. There will be some changes around waste management and associated fees with a distinction between waste management and landfill.</p>	<p>Paying all suppliers ASAP and within 14 days.</p> <p>The Cradle Coast Authority regional restart hub, to help businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Working to maintain Council employment and Capital program.</p>	<p>https://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/</p>

	the General Manager						
WEST TAMAR As at 18.08.20	<p>Council will be putting in place a new hardship policy specifically designed to address serious hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy provides an equitable means to consider welfare needs and those people facing genuine financial difficulty with regards to payments of Council's rates, fees or charges.</p> <p>Most properties valued and used for commercial and recreational purposes will not be charged rates from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020.</p> <p>Council will also be strongly advocating for cost savings to be passed on to commercial</p>	<p>All property owners currently behind in rate payments will benefit from a 6 month suspension to interest charges.</p> <p>All property owners can expect Council's fees and charges not to increase for the next financial year. In addition any increases associated with changes to the CPI will not be applied.</p> <p>All fees normally charged to sporting clubs and community groups for Council facilities will cease, effective immediately. This arrangement will remain in place until the COVID-19 emergency is declared over.</p>	<p>Council will provide rent relief based on applications received from its commercial tenants who are experiencing a significant downturn in business/turnover or are forced to close for a period of time due to the effects of the current pandemic.</p>		<p>No rates, fees, or charges increments.</p>	<p>Council will process all early payment requests from creditors quickly to ensure cash flow for business.</p> <p>Council will support contractors by fast-tracking a million dollars of small capital projects. By fast-tracking additional capital works, Council will be assisting by providing opportunities for local companies where it is possible to do so.</p> <p>Council will also add a further million dollars of stimulus works to the 2020-21 capital budget. Council will also bring forward the planning and design of our 2021-22 capital works program to ensure an array of</p>	<p>https://www.wtc.tas.gov.au/Home/COVID-19</p>

	tenants such as small businesses.	To assist the hospitality sector with recovery, there will be no fees charged for food business licensing during the 2020-21 financial year.				projects are ready to as soon as practical.	
SUMMARY	<p>Most councils have reviewed (or intend to review) their Financial Hardship and Assistance Policy.</p> <p>For councils, this policy generally encompasses the following support mechanisms (or similar):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferral and targeted waiving of rates, primarily for affected businesses (and individuals – in some cases); • Waiving penalties for the current instalment, as well as for 	<p>Several councils are proposing to turn off interest for outstanding rates (typically until 30 June 2020).</p> <p>Many councils are also suspending debt recovery actions against community members (at least until the adoption of a hardship policy).</p> <p>Some councils mentioned that fees and charges will overall go up by approx. CPI, whilst others referred to a 0% increase in fees and charges revenue.</p> <p>The fees and charges that</p>	<p>Councils providing rent relief are doing so through either a relaxation, deferral, reduction, or waiver of rent and related requirements.</p> <p>Some councils are applying these mechanisms to council owned buildings and on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Others are supporting commercial tenants, with a particular focus on the hospitality industry and community / sporting clubs.</p>	<p>Many councils describe reviewing the extent of their Community Grants Program, including a refocus of this Program (as appropriate) to support local businesses.</p> <p>Common themes included supporting local businesses and not-for-profit recovery, digital innovation and IT solutions, circular economy, and event/lifestyle recovery.</p> <p>City of Hobart - in addition to a broader Community Grants Program - are looking at the</p>	<p>Many councils who have responded anticipate a zero % increase in rates and waste charges for 20/21.</p> <p>Potential for a 1% increase in one.</p> <p>Possibly relaxing depreciation requirements with agreement from Auditor General.</p> <p>Some will change model for rates to reflect cost (so may increase).</p> <p>One may also implement a collar to ensure no one receives a rate bill that is higher than last year unless there has been a</p>	<p>Councils are implementing a range of programs to support communities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging a Mental H/W Coordinator. - Working with event organisers to reschedule events or move online where possible (Salamanca) - Pursue local procurement. -Business assistance program (\$160K). - Online initiatives to address social isolation including kids portals. 	<p>https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/media-and-publications/covid-19</p>

	<p>future instalments depending on how long the emergency goes for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponing of rate arrears; and • Remission of the general rates charge, primarily for the Commercial, Sport and Recreation rates categories. 	<p>many councils intend to waive include: Waste management charges, parking, dog registration and kennel license fees, food licenses and health inspections, outdoor dining and food vendor charges, sport and recreation fees, landing fees (for King Island), and development application fees.</p> <p>Several councils have put flexible arrangements in place in response to financial hardship.</p> <p>More often, these arrangements outline an extension of the early payment discount and time to repay rates. Councils also refer to the postponement of rates payments and to not taking legal action</p>		<p>provision of Quick Response Grants to support businesses and creative industries, including an eCommerce grant (\$300 per business capped at 100 successful applicants).</p>	<p>supplementary valuation based on development or change of use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with aged care services and disability providers to reduce social isolation. - Considering options for relaxing depreciation requirements. - Many councils are accelerating their capital works programs for 20/21, including preparation for 21/22. - Implementing additional one-off building maintenance and infrastructure programs, utilising local resources. - Support for the Government COVID-19 Program: Staff re-assigned from normal duties to support local Biosecurity, Police and volunteer emergency services. 	
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		where financial hardship is apparent.					
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Other Local Government Initiatives in Response to COVID-19 include:

- Help for community groups supporting those impacted
- Assistance for organisers of cancelled events
- Online activities and competitions for children and families
- Assessing what assistance is required to compliment State and Commonwealth support
- Support measures for community and volunteer organisations to continue without risk to volunteers
- Establishment of a community hotline
- Parking fee changes
- Buy Local campaign
- COVID-19 Response Committees
- Surveys to understand the impact
- Community car delivering groceries
- Providing signs to place at high risk properties
- Connecting an isolating community e.g. promoting Neighbour Day
- Sharing and promoting information on business operations, particularly takeaways
- Mayor's messages videos
- Dedicated pages on council websites
- Service streamlining/ innovation/ improvements
- Establishing or supporting others into E-commerce
- Strengthening council's local procurement
- Facilitating local counselling services, link people to mental health support
- Encourage resilience plans
- Celebrating good news
- Networking to support businesses, e.g. connecting hospitality workers to new employment opportunities
- Building skills and knowledge