

Our ref: R09/0012 Out-33022

28 June 2021

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier

By email: admin@premier.nsw.gov.au

Dear Premier

Urgent support for businesses and individuals during COVID stay-at-home orders

Thank you again for your stewardship of NSW during this difficult time.

I write on behalf of councils across NSW to call on the NSW Government to provide support for businesses and individuals at financial risk from the latest COVID stay-at-home orders, which are expected to cost businesses and communities hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue.

I am aware that in recent days you have foreshadowed that support for impacted businesses will be made available and I encourage you to ensure this support adequately supports businesses in affected areas right across NSW.

Within metropolitan Sydney and surrounds, mayors are concerned at the impacts of the latest restrictions on local businesses and their employees, particularly with the cessation of the federal government's JobKeeper arrangements earlier this year.

While NSW's state borders at this stage remain largely open to cross-border communities and regional areas of NSW are not impacted by stay-at-home-orders, mayors from across NSW have contacted me to express concern at the economic impact of the latest COVID cases and restrictions on gathering and movement. The economic impacts of the metropolitan stay-at-home order are particularly being felt across the state during what was expected to be a busy school holidays period.

Over the last 15 months councils across NSW have gone to great lengths to support their local businesses, deep cleaning public spaces, waiving regulatory and inspection fees and offering millions in grant programs to support the health and economic recovery of their communities.

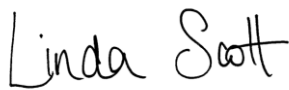
Communities now require further assistance from the NSW and Australian governments to ensure NSW's economic recovery continues. Your support will also allow councils to consider their own financial support arrangements for communities to ensure there is no duplication.

Premier, would you please:

1. **Provide an urgent financial support package for businesses across NSW impacted by the most recent COVID-restrictions, and**
2. **Work with the federal government, through National Cabinet arrangements, to deliver an urgent financial support package to individuals who are unable to earn an income during this period.**

I would also welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter further. Could you please have your staff contact Ms Kelly Kwan, LGNSW Executive Manager Advocacy on 02 9242 4038 or at kelly.kwan@lgnsw.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Cr Linda Scott
President

Cc: The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government

Co-signatories

Cr Kevin Mack
Mayor
Albury City Council

Mr Frank Zaknich
General Manager
Albury City Council

Cr Ian Tiley
Mayor
Armidale Regional Council

Cr David Wright OAM
Mayor
Ballina Shire Council

Cr Bobby Bourke
Mayor
Bathurst Regional Council

Cr Russell Fitzpatrick
Mayor
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Ms Leanne Barnes
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Cr Barry Hollman
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Cr Khal Asfour
Mayor
**Canterbury Bankstown
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Cr Darryl Jardine
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Carrathool Shire Council

Mr Rick Warren
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Carrathool Shire Council

Cr Denise Knight
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**Coffs Harbour City
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Mr Steve McGrath
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Karanouh
Mayor
**Coonamble Shire
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Mr Adrian Butler
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Cr Kevin Greene
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Georges River Council

Ms Gail Connolly
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Georges River Council

Cr Carol Sparks
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Cr John Coulton
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Gwydir Shire Council

Cr Brian Ingram
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Hilltops Council

Mr Anthony O'Reilly
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Hilltops Council

Cr Ross Williams
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Mr Chris White
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Cr John Medcalf
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Lachlan Shire Council

Mr Greg Tory
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Lachlan Shire Council

Mr Craig Butler
General Manager
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Cr Vanessa Ekins
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Lismore City Council

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Cr Doug Hawkins
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Cr Vanessa Ekins
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Cr Loretta Baker
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Maitland City Council

Mr Terry Dodds
Chief Executive
Murray River Council

Cr Ron Campbell
Mayor
Narrabri Shire Council

Cr Craig Davies
Mayor
Narromine Shire Council

Cr Nuatali Nelmes
Lord Mayor
**City of Newcastle
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Mr Jeremy Bath
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Cr Bob Dwyer
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Cr Chris Cherry
Mayor
Tweed Shire Council

Cr Michael Pierce
Mayor
Uralla Shire Council

Mr Michael Urquhart
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Cr Milton Quigley
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Mr Gary Woodman
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Cr Ambrose Doolan
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Mr Charles Casuscelli
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**Western Sydney
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Cr Gail Giles-Gidney
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Willoughby City Council

Cr Susan Wynne
Mayor
**Woollahra Municipal
Council**

Cr Rowena Abbey
Mayor
Yass Valley Council