



Welcome to this month's newsletter

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Please share this newsletter with other local businesses, become a member of the Hawkesbury Business Hub (it's free!) and please tell me what you think by contacting me on 4560 4437 or 0418 296 579 or email Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

From Mayor Connolly's Desk

Welcome to this month's Business Hub newsletter for the Hawkesbury.

In these challenging and uncertain times dealing with the pandemic, I thank all businesses for doing the right thing to keep our community safe. Please keep following Department of Health guidelines to ensure the continued wellbeing of everyone.

This month I am also delighted to announce that Council has now revealed our plans for improvements to some of our town centres, which includes more trees and better community and pedestrian and community spaces. The improvements are being funded by the Western Parkland City Liveability Program. They include:

- Richmond - to be an Activated Cultural Destination
- South Windsor - to be an Updated Contemporary Town Centre
- Windsor - to focus on River Heritage, Civic Boulevards and Vibrant People Places

Please check out the detailed plans [here](#). We will be working with businesses to ensure minimal disruptions while these improvements are being undertaken.



Stay-at-Home Orders Extended to Greater Sydney

Following updated health advice from the Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant, current stay-at-home orders have been extended to include all residents of the Greater Sydney area, which includes the Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong until 11:59pm Friday, 9 July 2021.

Everyone in Greater Sydney must stay at home unless it is for an essential reason.

The reasons you may leave your home include:

- Shopping for food or other essential goods and services
- Medical care or compassionate needs (people can leave home to have a COVID-19 vaccination unless you have been identified as a close contact)
- Exercise outdoors in groups of 10 or fewer
- Essential work, or education, where you cannot work or study from home

Businesses

Unfortunately some businesses in the Greater Sydney area will have to close to the public.

For a full list of impacted businesses and exemptions, please visit the NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney#places-that-are-closed>

Businesses that can remain open should:

- Have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe>
- Use the NSW Government QR code to check staff, contractors, customers, and delivery drivers in and out: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/lost-qr-code>
- Ensure everyone wears a face mask
- Remind staff to get tested immediately if unwell, even with mild symptoms, and to stay home until they have received a negative test result
- Businesses in all other parts of NSW are also subject to additional public health measures, and a full list is available on the NSW Government website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney>

We understand that this is a difficult time, but we ask that you please follow all NSW Health guidelines and Government restrictions.



COVID-19 Support Package Announced

The NSW Government has announced a major new grants package to help small businesses and people across the state impacted by the current COVID-19 restrictions.

The package includes grants of between \$5000 and \$10,000 for small businesses, payroll tax deferrals for all employers, an extension of the Dine & Discover program to 31 August and the ability for people to use Dine & Discover vouchers for takeaway delivered directly to their home by the venue itself.

The small business support grants will help by alleviating cashflow constraints while trading is restricted and can also be used for business expenses such as rent, utilities and wages, for which no other government support is available.

Three different grant amounts will be available for small businesses depending on the decline in turnover experienced during the restrictions - \$10,000 for a 70 per cent decline, \$7000 for a 50 per cent decline and \$5000 for a 30 per cent decline.

Businesses will be able to apply for the grants through Service NSW from later in July and will need to show a decline in turnover across a minimum two-week period after the commencement of major restrictions on June 26 2021.

The grants will be divided into two streams:

Small Business COVID-19 Support Grant

Available to businesses and sole traders with a turnover of more than \$75,000 per annum but below the NSW Government 2020 21 payroll tax threshold of \$1,200,000 as at 1 July 2020.

These businesses must have fewer than 20 full time equivalent employees and an Australian Business Number (ABN) registered in New South Wales or be able to demonstrate they are physically located and primarily operating in New South Wales.

Hospitality and Tourism COVID-19 Support Grant

Available to tourism or hospitality businesses that have a turnover of more than \$75,000 and an annual Australian wages bill of below \$10 million, as at 1 July 2020.

These business must have an Australian Business Number (ABN) registered in New South Wales or be able to demonstrate they are physically located and primarily operating in New South Wales.

The full criteria for both streams will be made available in the coming days on the Service NSW website.



Liveability Project – Revitalising Our Town Centres

As part of the Western Parkland City Liveability Program, Hawkesbury City Council has created the Liveability project to revitalise the town centres of Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor. These improvements will encourage greater numbers of visitors to our town centres and encourage them to stay longer through more attractive and useful spaces, more opportunities for public activities, and greater commercial opportunities.

To make this happen, Council engaged Place Design Group to deliver the detailed design for revitalising the town centres of Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor.

The design celebrate the existing heritage of these town centres while proving the public places to boost and support the charm of the Hawkesbury region. The Design has specific aims for the town centres of Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor.

- Richmond – to be an Activated Cultural Destination
- South Windsor – to be an Updated Contemporary Town Centre
- Windsor – to focus on River Heritage, Civic Boulevards and Vibrant People Places.

The planned upgrades will see all three town centres receiving advanced street tree planting that will create a magnificent 'green boulevard'. We are trying to mitigate climate change and create long term liveability of the Hawkesbury Town Centres. We know that Western Sydney experiences extreme heat in summer (and is only getting hotter) and we are looking to future proof the liveability and, economic stability of the LGA. By implementing street trees, we can also reduce the reliance of cars (by improving walkability through creating greener, shaded streets). This also meets Council's environmental sustainability targets (reduced temperatures and increased biodiversity).

Richmond

Richmond Town Centre will receive tree planting, street upgrades, parklets and crossing upgrades as well as park furniture and open space improvements.

Windsor

Windsor Town Centre will consist of enhanced paving, street furniture which is sensitive to heritage and the existing character, as well as planting and pedestrian crossing upgrades. In the Windsor Mall, a space will be created for activation and events which will increase pedestrian activity, as well as new upgraded paving, furniture upgrades, outdoor dining areas and plantings.

South Windsor

South Windsor Town Centre will include realigned accessible parking spaces in Mullinger Lane, pedestrian crossings introduced and upgraded, lighting, water sensitive urban design (WSUD) garden beds, tree planting, footpath upgrades (paving and furniture) and crossing upgrades.

There will be a minimal reduction in the total number of existing on-street parking spaces wherever possible. Council has taken community feedback into account and as a result, Council is looking to plant the new trees in existing footpath verges. Where this is not possible, the new trees will be planted in the existing roadway. Place Design Group has also sought creative solutions to reduce the loss of existing car parking areas.

[\[View the concept design here\]](#)



Love the Hawkesbury Campaign

Following the March 2021 floods that severely impacted the region, Destination NSW and Hawkesbury City Council have partnered for a second round of the Love the Hawkesbury campaign. Its aim is to let consumers know that the Hawkesbury region is once again open for business and encourage them to visit the area.

Outdoor media placements will build on the awareness of the Hawkesbury as a premier travel destination, while paid social media will promote unique destination and experience motivators, encouraging bookings with tourism operators and accommodation providers.

The campaign details will be announced once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Campaign Creative

Building on the success and learnings from last winter's campaign, the 2021 assets will showcase the strongest performing pillars of 1. camping, 2. food and 3. heritage. A new, fourth pillar, rejuvenate will be promoted to emphasise that the Hawkesbury is a good destination to relax and unwind.

The advertising includes a call to action to visit all four 'pillar experience' landing pages hosted on visitnsw.com.

What's in it for Hawkesbury tourism businesses?

- Increased visitor nights, daytrips and \$ spend within the Hawkesbury region.
- All Hawkesbury businesses with a current Get Connected (ATDW) listing will feature on the relevant product category pages via a randomised widget so that new products will be featured each time that page is viewed. For assistance with creating or updating a Get Connected listing please call our helpline on 1300 655 077 or email getconnected@dnsnsw.com.au.
- Photography is one of the primary means through which we showcase the beauty of the Hawkesbury and the range of incredible experiences available throughout the year. Capturing and selecting high quality content that will engage our audiences is of key importance. Register for the DNSW Content Library to search, select and download digital files that are ready to use. Visit content.destinationnsw.com.au and click register in the top right corner.
- Help promote the Hawkesbury, be part of the campaign and spread the word! So that we all share the same voice across the Love the Hawkesbury campaign, when creating and sharing content through

your marketing and social media channels, we ask you to always use the #Hawkesbury, #LoveNSW and #NewSouthWales hashtags in your social media copy.

Industry Development

The NSW First Program helps businesses to develop, promote and sell their tourism offering through its workshops, webinars, industry guides and one-on-one mentoring and advice.

Please review [DNSW's NSW First Guides and resources](#) available for tourism businesses.

Get in touch

For support and advice about developing or adapting your tourism business, contact:

Tenille Jenkins
Destination NSW
Regional Tourism Development Manager – Sydney Surrounds North
Engagement and Visitor Economy Development
tenille.jenkins@dnsw.com.au



NSW State Budget: Key Measures for Small Business

The NSW Government has announced a number of measures to support small business as part of the State's 2021-22 Budget.

Introduction of the new [Small Business Shorter Payment Terms Policy](#). This will require large businesses that contract to supply goods or services (valued at or above \$7.5 million) to NSW Government agencies to pay their small business subcontractors within 20 business days.

An updated [Small and Medium Enterprise \(SME\) and Regional Procurement Policy](#), which will:

- Increase the current general exemption of \$50,000 for small businesses to \$150,000 for SMEs and regional businesses
- Require agencies to first consider SMEs for procurements up to \$3 million, where direct engagement is permitted
- Require suppliers tendering for contracts valued at more than \$3 million to submit an SME and Local Participation Plan, which will become contractually binding.

Continuing payroll tax cuts for the next year, with the rate remaining at 4.85 per cent, alongside a permanent increase in the payroll tax threshold to \$1.2 million.

Continuing the [\\$1500 fees and charges rebate scheme](#) to help small businesses cover the cost of NSW and local government fees and charges. The scheme is available to small businesses that have a total wages bill below the 2020-21 \$1.2 million payroll tax threshold.

An extension of the [Dine & Discover program](#) by one month, until the end of July, giving people more time to use all their vouchers across almost 14,000 participating businesses.

Introduction of a new \$50 million CBD Friday voucher program that will offer four \$25 vouchers for use towards dining and entertainment experiences in the Sydney CBD on Fridays.

Commercial refrigerator rebates for eligible small businesses for the lease or purchase of commercial fridges and freezers. Applicants can get up to \$1,490 per fridge, with each business able to claim up to five rebates under the program.

The NSW Small Business Commission will receive \$13 million in funding to assist the State's small businesses, which will support:

- Additional mediation staff to support the [low-cost resolution](#) of retail and commercial tenancy disputes as well as business-to-business disputes
- Additional customer service positions to manage calls and web-based enquiries from small businesses and provide tailored information and support
- Continuation of the four-year \$5 million tender support program in partnership with TAFE NSW to help small businesses improve their tendering skills
- Enhanced advocacy, surveying and stakeholder engagement activities to identify the key issues facing small businesses during the COVID recovery and develop solutions and support.



FACTSHEET

BUDGET 2021-22

BCA: 2021-22 Budget

Budget snapshot

- The NSW budget continues its pro-growth strategy with major infrastructure commitments and continued reforms.
- A budget deficit of \$8.6 billion is estimated in 2021-22, and a return to balance by 2023-23.
- Economic growth is expected to rebound to 3.35% in 2021-22.

Headline economic indicators

- The NSW economy is expected to grow 3.25% in 2021-22, reflecting the easing of social distancing measures, and fiscal and monetary support. Above-trend growth is forecast on balance over the next four years.

- Both economic activity and employment exceed pre-COVID levels, around a year earlier than previously expected.
- The NSW unemployment rate is expected to reach 4.5% (representing full employment) by June 2025.
- Ongoing border closures will continue to weigh on population growth. It is expected to average 0.7% a year over the next four years, compared with pre-COVID rate of 1.3%.
 - The NSW budget assumptions around border closures and the vaccine rollout are consistent with the Commonwealth Budget. It also assumes restrictions eased at the peak of the pandemic will not be reintroduced.

Overall budget position

- The budget deficit is expected to be \$7.9 billion in 2020-21 and \$8.6 billion in 2021-22.
- The deficit is expected to decline over the forward estimates, returning to balance by 2023-24 and posting a small surplus in 2024-25.
- Net debt is forecast to peak at 13.7% of GSP in 2024-25, driven by the impact of revenue write-downs, stimulus and infrastructure investment.
- The previous budget set out a fiscal strategy for the budget to return to surplus by 2024-25 and to reduce net debt to 7% of GSP over the medium term. That strategy remains on track.

Key budget measures for individuals

- A \$490 million package to support the take-up of electric vehicles in NSW, while establishing the foundations for a more efficient and sustainable revenue base for road funding. The package includes:
 - Stamp duty exemptions for eligible new and used zero emissions cars under \$78,000.
 - Investment in charging infrastructure, particularly around major highways and regional tourist destinations.
 - A \$3,000 rebate for battery and fuel cell EVs sold for less than \$68,750 (first 25,000 cars).
 - A 2.5 cents per kilometre road use charge for EVs will be introduced the earlier of 1 July 2027 or when battery EVs reach 30% of new vehicle sales.
- \$100 vouchers for swimming lessons for every preschool child aged three to six.
- \$50 million CBD Friday voucher stimulus program that will offer NSW residents \$100 worth of vouchers for use towards dining and entertainment experiences in the Sydney CBD on Fridays.
- Two days a week of free preschool with an estimated saving of \$4,000 per year per child.

Key budget measures for business

- A new Small Business Shorter Payment Terms Policy. Large businesses with NSW Government contracts valued at or above \$7.5 million must pay their small business subcontractors within 20 business days.
- Continuing payroll tax cuts for the next year, which will benefit thousands of NSW businesses. The payroll tax rate was cut from 5.45 per cent to 4.85 per cent for two years in the 2020-21 Budget and there was a permanent increase in the payroll tax threshold to \$1.2 million, saving businesses an average of \$34,000 a year.
- Continuing the \$1,500 fees and charges rebate scheme to help small businesses cover the cost of NSW and local government fees and charges. The \$472 million scheme is available to small businesses with total wages below the 2020-21 \$1.2 million payroll tax threshold.
- An extension of the Dine & Discover program by a month, until the end of July, giving people more time to use all their vouchers. Every adult in NSW is eligible for four \$25 vouchers worth \$100 in total, to spend across almost 14,000 participating businesses.
- Continuing the Business Connect program. The program received a \$39.3 million boost last year, representing a four-year commitment, and the program will continue to support small businesses across the State to access targeted business advice and skills training.

- The NSW Small Business Commission will receive \$13 million in funding in the next financial year to provide:
 - Additional mediation staff to support the low-cost resolution of retail and commercial tenancy disputes as well as business-to-business disputes.
 - Additional customer service positions to manage calls and web-based enquiries from small businesses and enhanced advocacy, surveying and stakeholder engagement activities.
 - Continuation of a previously funded four-year \$5 million tender support program in partnership with TAFE NSW aimed at helping small businesses improve their tendering skills and win more work from the NSW Government and private sector.
 - A refreshed Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) and Regional Procurement Policy which will increase opportunities for SMEs and regional businesses to supply goods and services to the NSW Government through measures such as:
 - Increasing the current general exemption of \$50,000 for small businesses to \$150,000 for SMEs and regional businesses. This means they can be directly engaged by agencies for goods or services up to the value of, even where there is a whole-of-government contract in place.
 - Requiring agencies to first consider SMEs for procurements up to \$3 million, where direct engagement is permitted.
 - Requiring suppliers tendering for contracts valued at more than \$3 million to submit an SME and Local Participation Plan, which will become contractually binding.
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Aboriginal Tourism Experience Development Workshop Program

Destination NSW is holding a series of Aboriginal Tourism Experience Development Workshops in partnership with the NSW Aboriginal Tourism Operators Council (NATOC).

The goal of the experience development workshops is for aspiring Aboriginal tourism operators to gain a greater understanding of the tourism sector and access to services to further develop their businesses.

The two-day workshops will be delivered in partnership with NATOC and will include on-country experiences, a welcome dinner and a workshop program with presentations and case studies from a range of stakeholders.

The NSW Aboriginal Tourism Experience Development Workshops locations are:

Albury

27-28 July 2021

Tamworth

17-18 August 2021

Western Sydney

21-22 September 2021

Blue Mountains
19-20 October 2021

South West Rocks
9-10 November 2021

Eden
16-17 November 2021

Please Note:

- There is no charge to attend the workshops
- Attendees will be responsible for their own accommodation and travel to and from each workshop
- Registration for the workshop program is by invitation only

[\[Register for the program here\]](#)



Changes to Dine & Discover

The NSW Government's Dine & Discover NSW initiative will be extended until 31 August 2021 to give people more time to use all of their vouchers.

Dine & Discover vouchers can now also be used for takeaway from eligible and registered Dine businesses during the restriction period, but food must be delivered direct to the home by the restaurant or café and not picked up. Dine & Discover vouchers cannot be redeemed for takeaway using third party delivery platforms.

How Dine & Discover works

The New South Wales Government has extended Dine & Discover NSW to give businesses more time to register, and NSW residents more time to apply and get out and about to use their vouchers.

All NSW residents aged 18 and over can apply for 4 x \$25 vouchers, worth \$100 in total. Vouchers must be used by 31 August 2021.

When you can use your vouchers

Dine & Discover NSW has been extended to Saturday 31 August 2021. You must use your vouchers in a participating business on or before the end date.

Where you can use your vouchers

You can search for participating businesses using the Dine & Discover NSW business finder.

Registering your business

It isn't too late to register your business. Check if your business is eligible and apply [here](#).



NSW Outdoor Dining Reforms to Become Permanent

A pilot program relaxing outdoor drinking and dining rules for the state's hospitality businesses to help drive them out of the COVID-19 slump is set to become permanent later this year.

The al fresco trial launched by the NSW government last year aims to make it easier for councils to allow bars and restaurants to extend their seating to surrounding footpaths.

[\[Read the full article\]](#)

