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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](mailto:Amanda.Kearney@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

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## From Hawkesbury City Council

At the time of writing this newsletter, over 95% of eligible Hawkesbury residents have received their first vaccine against COVID-19 and 89% are fully vaccinated.

This extraordinary effort has been fundamental to the ability of businesses to open, recommence trading and serving customers in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you one and all for doing your part to get business back on track.

To support businesses and their reopening efforts, there are a number of programs being undertaken by all levels of government, including:

- Dine & Discover vouchers expanded
- Light Up Windsor Festival
- Light Up Windsor Festival Best Dressed Festive Window Competition
- Small business fees and charges rebate increased
- SME Summer Holiday Stock Guarantee
- Alfresco Restart Package

We encourage all businesses to access these packages where they can. As we move into this key retail period and recovery phase from COVID-19, we applaud all businesses for their responsiveness to the pandemic while ensuring the safety of their staff and customers.

Take care and stay safe,

Hawkesbury City Council

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## COVID-19 Update

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### NSW Reopen for Business

NSW has reached the 80% double vaccination target, meaning that restrictions have continued to ease in the state.

Fully vaccinated people can now:

- Have up to 20 fully vaccinated visitors to their home\*
- Participate in community sport

*\*Children under the age of 12 are not counted in this visitor total.*

[\[View the updated NSW rules and restrictions\]](#)



# Becoming a COVID Safe Business

## Step One

Complete the relevant COVID-19 Safety Plan for your industry. Keep a copy of your plan and be ready to provide it when asked by an authorised person.

[\[Complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan\]](#)

## Step Two

Register your business as COVID Safe.

[\[Register as COVID Safe\]](#)

## Step Three

Access your QR code and business resources.



## Vaccination Rules for Businesses

As businesses across the state start to reopen, continuing to operate in a [COVID safe way](#) is important. This includes having an up-to-date COVID Safety Plan and for [some businesses](#), this will also mean ensuring that employees and patrons are fully vaccinated, or have a vaccine medical contraindication form signed by their doctor, before entering the premises.

Under the current public health orders, those aged 16 years and over are only permitted to enter certain venues or settings if they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or have a medical exemption. In some venues, children under 16 must be accompanied by a fully vaccinated member of their household to enter.

### Fully Vaccinated

You are fully vaccinated if you have had 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccination or you have a [medical exemption](#).

### Vaccination Rules

Businesses are responsible for taking reasonable steps to prevent unvaccinated people from entering their premises, ensuring that:

- A person over 16 years of age who is not fully vaccinated does not enter the premises
- Any person under 16 years of age who is not fully vaccinated is only on the premises if they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated member of their household or they are on the premises for the purpose of work

### Reasonable Steps

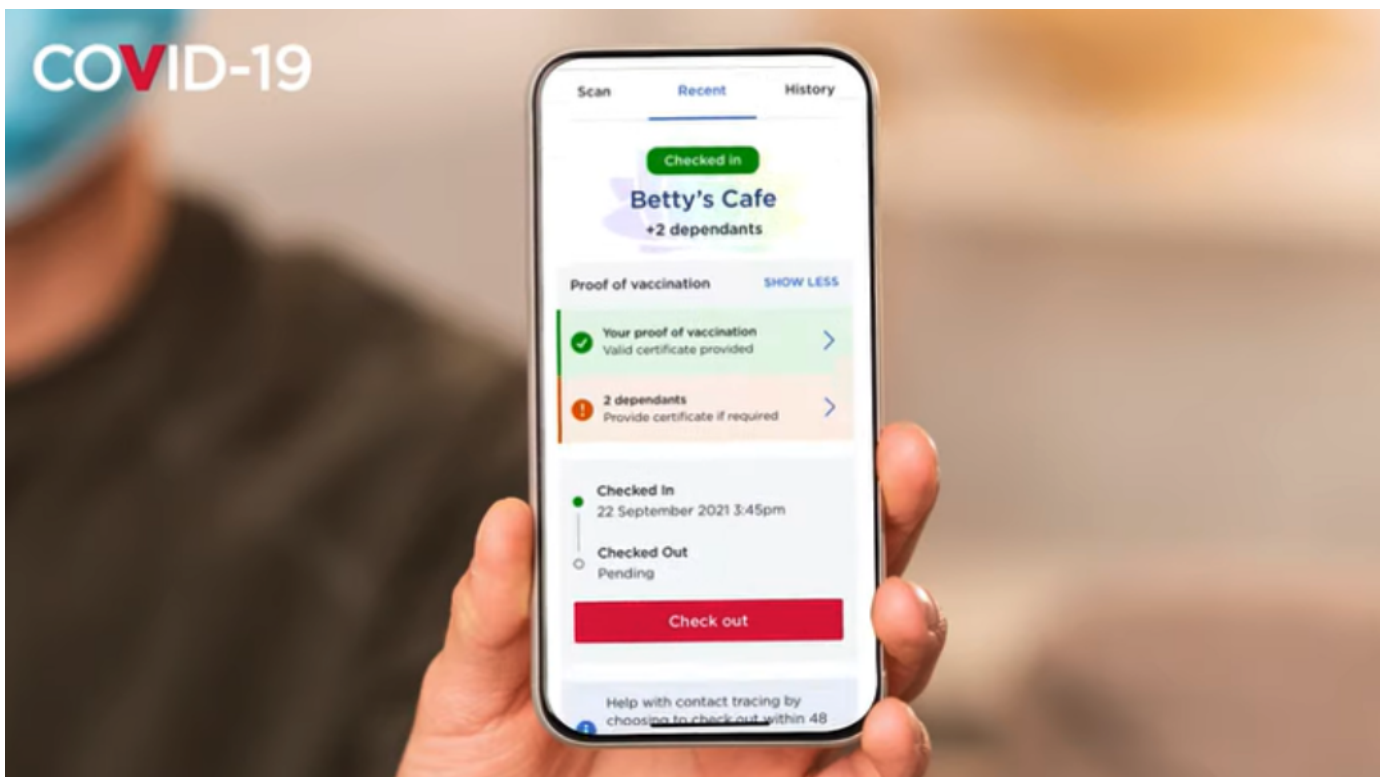
Some reasonable steps include:

- Ensuring posters outlining vaccination requirements and Service NSW QR codes are clearly visible
- Training staff on ways to check proof of vaccination status (or valid exemption) and what to do if someone refuses to provide proof or is not vaccinated
- Reminding customers of vaccination requirements in marketing material and when taking and confirming bookings
- Considering ways that you can make products and services available to unvaccinated customers online
- Checking vaccination status upon entry where practical

## Resources

There are posters and signage that can be downloaded and displayed on your premises.

[[Access resources](#)]



## Service NSW app: proof of COVID-19 vaccination

To help businesses confirm whether a person is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 quickly and easily, proof of vaccination is now available through the Service NSW app and can be shown as part of a COVID Safe Check-in. Visit [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) for details and instructions on adding a COVID-19 digital certificate to the app.

### How to check proof of COVID-19 vaccination through the Service NSW app

Your customers and staff can continue to use your existing NSW Government QR code to check in to your business. When someone has added their COVID-19 digital certificate to their Service NSW app, a 'Proof of vaccination – Show More' option will automatically appear on the check-in confirmation screen. The individual can then select 'Show more' to confirm they have a valid certificate. The COVID-19 digital certificate can also be accessed anytime by the individual on the home screen of the Service NSW app.

Where required, businesses can also use the Service NSW app to verify an individual's COVID-19 digital certificate. On your app's home screen, select 'Check a licence or credential' and scan the QR code at the bottom of the person's COVID-19 digital certificate.

After check-in, details of a visit, including if a person was fully vaccinated for COVID-19, will be stored securely with Service NSW for 28 days and will only be shared with NSW Health [in the event of a confirmed case](#) to assist with contact tracing.

There are other ways people can show [proof of COVID-19 vaccination](#) or medical exemption including:

- COVID-19 digital certificate: accessed through the Express Plus Medicare mobile app or Medicare online account through myGov. The COVID-19 digital certificate can be added to a digital wallet, printed or saved offline to a device
- Immunisation history statement: accessed through My Health Record, myGov or the Express Plus Medicare app and shared on a smartphone screen or printed
- Medical exemption form: COVID-19 digital certificate for medical contraindication (which can be added to the Service NSW app from 17 October), a NSW Health medical contraindication form completed by a registered medical practitioner or a medical clearance notice issued by NSW Health.

Visit [nsw.gov.au](https://nsw.gov.au) to learn more about the options to access and share proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

[[Download the 'how to check for proof of COVID-19 vaccination using the Service NSW app' poster](#)]



## Dine & Discover Expanded

This summer NSW residents will be able to access two additional Dine & Discover vouchers as part of an expanded recovery program to support and encourage economic activity.

The vouchers will once again be available via the Service NSW app. For those who already applied for Dine & Discover NSW, these additional vouchers will automatically be added in December. If you have yet to apply, you can still do so to receive all six \$25 vouchers for use up until 30 June 2022.

Participating businesses do not need to reapply. Those who wish to join the program are encouraged to do so by registering their business, downloading the scanner app and getting ready to redeem when the time comes.

[[Find out more](#)]



## Light Up Windsor Festival

Hawkesbury City Council and the Windsor Business Group are excited to announce that in line with the NSW Government's roadmap to reopening post COVID-19 lockdown, our Light Up Windsor Festival will be going ahead.

The Christmas festival will kick off with the Street Fair on Saturday, 11 December in Windsor Mall and George Street, Windsor from 5pm – 9pm.

Council has been able to include an exciting addition to the festival this year thanks to the Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grant Program and to Destination Sydney Surrounds North.

**The light projection show** will feature on the front and back of the Old Hawkesbury Hospital as well as on the front of the Deerubbin Centre. For 7 magical nights starting on the 11 December, the buildings will be lit up from 8pm – 10pm each night.



## Light Up Windsor Festival Best Dressed Festive Window Competition

It's time to decorate your shop fronts! This competition is available to local businesses in George Street, Windsor and Windsor Mall. Points will be awarded for appeal, originality and overall presentation, with a gift voucher to a local Hawkesbury restaurant for your staff valued at \$550 up for grabs.

Entry is now open. To enter you must email your business name, contact details and address to [events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) and a photo of your shop front display at night by Wednesday, 1 December.

The winner will be announced at Light Up Windsor Street Fair on Saturday, 11 December at 8:30pm.

[\[Download the flyer\]](#)



## Liveability Project Update – works to begin in early 2022

The transformation of our Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor town centres will begin in early 2022.

The detailed designs are in the final stages, with extra care being taken to preserve and highlight the important heritage of our centres, especially in Windsor, and to ensure minimal disruption is caused during construction. These designs will be reviewed by Heritage NSW as part of the final approval process.

The next step is the tender process to engage a contractor for the construction. An Expression of Interest process will commence on 26 October. Interested contractors will be able to apply at <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/wsroc>

The improvements across the three town centres include:

- Richmond Town Centre - tree planting, street upgrades including enhanced paving, parklets and crossing upgrades as well as park furniture and open space improvements.
- South Windsor Town Centre - realigned parking with compliant accessible parking spaces in Mullinger Lane, new and improved pedestrian crossings, lighting, water efficient garden beds, tree planting, improved footpath paving and street furniture.
- Windsor Town Centre - enhanced paving and street furniture which is sensitive to heritage and the existing character; tree planting and pedestrian crossing upgrades. Windsor Mall would receive an open space suitable for events and performances which will increase pedestrian activity, new upgraded paving, furniture upgrades, outdoor dining areas and tree planting.

All master plans and designs can be viewed at [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/lptc](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/lptc)

It is anticipated that works will commence in Richmond and South Windsor early next year with Windsor being in mid-2022. This is pending approvals from Heritage NSW.

### **Greening Our City**

Hawkesbury City Council is excited to announce that they have received a *Greening Our City Grant* from the New South Wales Government to plant more trees and create quality green and open public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

The Greening Our City Grant supports local councils across the Greater Sydney area to enhance urban tree canopy and green cover by co-funding tree planting and demonstration projects. In 2021 more than \$9.9 million was awarded in grant funding to 28 projects across 23 councils, which will result in more than 20,000 newly planted trees. More trees means more shade, cooler suburbs, improved air quality, better urban amenity and attractive places to live and work.

A highlight of the works being done as part of the Liveability Project will be the planting of 319 trees to form 'green boulevards' along George Street at Windsor and South Windsor, and Windsor Street at Richmond. Where possible, these trees will be planted along the existing footpath verges, but in some areas they will be planted within the roadway itself.

### **Western Parkland City Liveability Program**

The improvements to the Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor town centres are supported by the Western Parkland City Liveability Program and funded by all three levels of government via the Western Sydney City Deal. The Western Parkland City Liveability Program is a key commitment of the Western Sydney City Deal. The City Deals Liveability Program was established to enable each Council to implement a project to provide infrastructure improvements that will improve the built and natural environments and enable economic and social prosperity.

For further information about the Master Plan and Public Domain Plan, Liveability Project, 'Revitalising Our Town Centres of Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor', visit [www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/lptc](http://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/lptc) or contact Council's Manager, City Design and Economic Development on (02) 4560 4444 or email [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

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## **Financial Support for Businesses**

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## COVID-19 Support

### **Accommodation support grant**

If you are an accommodation provider who has experienced cancellations for stays between Friday 25 June 2021 and Sunday 11 July 2021, you may be eligible for the accommodation support grant of either \$2,000 or \$5,000.

Applications close on 30 November 2021. To apply, visit [Accommodation support grant](#).

### **Hardship review panel**

If your business is not eligible for the 2021 COVID-19 business grant, COVID-19 micro-business grant or JobSaver payment, or if your application has been refused, you may still be able to access financial support by submitting your details to the COVID-19 business hardship review panel.

For more information, visit [Apply for COVID-19 business support hardship review](#).

### **Assistance for Indigenous businesses**

Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) is offering support to Indigenous businesses impacted by COVID-19, including those that are not existing IBA customers.

Assistance may include loans and grants to help with ongoing fixed costs, access to specialist advice and videos on how to manage a business during the pandemic.

For more information, visit [Indigenous Business Australia](#).



## Small business fees and charges rebate increased

The NSW Government has announced that the small business fees and charges rebate will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

If you're a sole trader, the owner of a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW, you may be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate to help you recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Funds can be used to offset the costs of eligible NSW and local government fees and charges due and paid from 1 March 2021. These include, but are not limited to:

- food authority licences
- liquor licences
- tradesperson licences
- event fees
- outdoor seating fees
- council rates.

You can view the full list of eligible fees and charges [HERE](#).

[\[Learn more\]](#)



## SME Summer Holiday Stock Guarantee

The NSW Government is providing a summer holiday stock guarantee of up to \$20,000 for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to help businesses reopen and reboot the state's economy.

Under this grant, hospitality and retail businesses will be able to apply for up to \$20,000 to compensate for loss of perishable stock, or claim \$10,000 for reduced capacity to sell non-perishable items, if they are forced to close their doors between 1 December 2021 to 31 January 2022 due to a public health order.

### **Eligibility**

Hospitality and retail businesses with an annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million.

### **Applying**

Businesses will be able to apply via the Service NSW website. More information about the grant can be found on [Service NSW](#) as it becomes available.



## Alfresco Restart Package

It's now easier for councils and businesses to offer outdoor dining. The Alfresco Restart Package supports food, beverage, entertainment, arts and cultural businesses to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and enjoy a COVID safe summer 2021.

The initiatives that will be rolled out include:

- temporary alfresco measures for outdoor dining in parks or on private land (for example bowling greens and carparks), with the landowner's consent
- Festival of Place – a series of consumer events in and around the CBD such as Long Summer Nights Program at the Rocks, Darling Harbour and The Domain, Streets as Shared Spaces and Open Streets Program
- \$5,000 grants for hospitality businesses to establish new alfresco settings
- permanent outdoor dining as exempt development for pubs and small bars state-wide. This is now active and follows the successful trial that started last year.

In 2020, changes were made as part of the Alfresco Dining Trial to streamline the approval process for licensed venues applying for outdoor dining. This supported food, beverage, entertainment, arts and cultural businesses in expanding their outdoor dining onto footpaths and public spaces.

The trial introduced measures to fast-track the outdoor dining approval process for a licensed premise wanting to change their licensed boundary to include new outdoor space.

### These changes included:

- A fast-track approval process for premises wanting to temporarily change their liquor licence boundary to include new outdoor space. Liquor & Gaming NSW (L&GNSW) approved applications within three days and application fees were waived
- The State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (Codes SEPP) was amended so that pubs and small bars were considered exempt development for outdoor dining purposes
- Improvements to the NSW Planning portal so that councils could use the service to further streamline the approval process

The NSW Government is continuing to offer these temporary measures.

### **New outdoor dining changes**

In addition to the trial measures put in place, the NSW Government is now supporting temporary approvals on land other than footpaths and public spaces to be used in a similar way until 18 April 2022.

For more information, visit [Service NSW](#) or the [Liquor & Gaming NSW website](#).

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## Education and Training

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### Resources to help small business tender for NSW government work

Small businesses across NSW can now access free online training and an informative guide to help them become “tender ready” and bid for NSW Government contracts.

The NSW Small Business Commission, in collaboration with TAFE NSW has launched new online training, as well as a written guide, to help small businesses understand and navigate the tendering and contract processes involved in working with the NSW Government.

The online program, *Selling to the NSW Government*, comprises four modules that help small businesses prepare for and navigate the four major stages of the tendering and contract processes:

- Getting Business Ready
- Finding Opportunities
- Selling to Government
- Successful Supplying

The training will be complimented by a 45-page guide, *Selling to the NSW Government: A Guide for Small Business*, which also includes templates for key tendering documents, such as a business’ capability statement and referee report.

[\[Learn more\]](#)

