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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

No one anticipated that we would be back under these extraordinary conditions, almost 18 months on from the pandemic's start.

Sadly, such action is necessary right now to prevent COVID-19 getting a foothold and spreading in our community, and impacting us and our loved ones. To all Hawkesbury businesses, I want to acknowledge how difficult this time is and encourage you to reach out for the support you, your business and families need right now. Throughout this period, there is a wealth of online resources to help you connect with other businesses, find new partnerships, and unlock growth opportunities.

Visit Council's website to access Hawkesbury Hub where you can find all the latest business information, webinars, resources and much more.



COVID-19 Support: for businesses

2021 COVID-19 Business Grant

If you are a business, sole trader or not-for-profit organisation impacted by the current Greater Sydney COVID-19 restrictions, you may be able to apply for up to \$15,000 in grants from 19 July 2021.

Grants can 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 depending on the decline in turnover experienced during the restrictions:

- \$7,500 for a decline of 30% or more
- \$10,500 for a decline of 50% or more
- \$15,000 for a decline of 70% or more.

More information is available [here](#).

Business and Employee Support Program

A new business support package will be available to businesses with an annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million that can demonstrate a minimum of a 30 percent decline in turnover.

This program will be delivered together with the Federal Government to provide cash flow support to businesses to help them retain staff.

To receive the payment, eligible businesses will be required to maintain their full-time, part-time and long-term casual staffing level as of 13 July 2021.

Eligible businesses, which includes not-for-profits, will receive payments of between \$1500 and \$10,000 per week based on the level of their payroll.

For non-employing businesses, such as sole traders, the payment will be set at \$1000 per week.

Microbusiness Grants

A new grant program has also been introduced for micro-businesses with turnover between \$30,000 and \$75,000 who experience a decline in turnover of 30 percent.

These micro-businesses will be eligible for a \$1500 payment per fortnight of restrictions.

Funding, Grant and Rebate Opportunities



Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants

The \$280 million Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) Grants program supports the recovery efforts of communities in eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs) affected by the 2019–20 bushfires. The program will support a range of projects in eligible LGAs affected by the 2019-20 bushfires to address community recovery and resilience needs. Projects must be completed by 31 March 2022.

Eligibility

To be eligible you must have an Australian business number (ABN) and be one of the following entities:

- An entity incorporated in Australia
- A company limited by guarantee
- An incorporated association
- An incorporated not for profit organisation
- A non-distributive co-operative
- An incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust
- An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006
- An Australian local governing agency or body as defined in Section 15 (for example, a Council)
- Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board (ABN: 93 938 780 598), the Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board (ABN: 21 789 770 569), or the Mt Buller and Mt Stirling Resort Management Board (ABN: 44 867 982 534)
- An Australian Capital Territory government agency or body

To be eligible your project must:

- Be aimed at supporting community recovery or resilience from the 2019–20 bushfires
- Be delivered in one or more eligible LGAs listed in Appendix A of the grant opportunity guidelines
- Include eligible activities consistent with project activities listed in the grant opportunity guidelines
- Have at least \$20,000 in eligible expenditure

[\[find out more\]](#)



Modern Manufacturing Strategy: Funding Available

Funding is available under the MMI for the Manufacturing Collaboration Stream.

The Manufacturing Collaboration Stream is the largest component of the Modern Manufacturing Initiative which is the centrepiece of the Federal Government's \$1.5 billion Modern Manufacturing Strategy.

\$800 million is available to provide co-funding of up to one third of eligible project costs. This will be through grants between \$20 million and \$200 million to support large-scale projects that will transform the manufacturing sector by increasing collaboration, and building scale to enhance growth and competitiveness in the National Manufacturing Priority (NMP) areas. We welcome applications from businesses operating in sectors outside the six NMPs as long as the project aligns with one or more of the NMP sectors.

Applicants can begin preparing their applications by reading the guidelines and using the sample application form available at www.business.gov.au/mmhc. For more information about the Modern Manufacturing Strategy, visit www.industry.gov.au/manufacturing

Applications can be lodged from 11 August 2021 and close on 9 September 2021.



Export Assistance Grant

If you are an exporting business, or if you were exporting goods or services before the impacts of COVID-19, bushfires or drought, you may be eligible for an export assistance grant of up to \$10,000.

This grant helps eligible export businesses in NSW access global markets. Funds can be used for:

- Marketing materials

- Website internationalisation
- Pivoting to online delivery (for example, converting face-to-face training content to online content for international audiences)
- E-commerce development
- Market research
- International tradeshow and trade missions
- Inbound business support
- Costs to support compliance/localisation of products for export
- Costs to protect business in international markets.

This grant will be provided as reimbursement of 50% of eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per eligible business, for expenses already paid since 1 January 2020.

You can submit either one application up to the maximum of \$10,000 or multiple applications of a minimum of \$2000 per application each, totalling a maximum of \$10,000.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this grant, you must:

- Be based in NSW
- Be registered with an ABN and be registered for GST as at 1 August 2019
- Be currently exporting, or were exporting prior to the impacts of COVID-19, bushfires or drought
- Employ a minimum of 3 full-time equivalent workers at the time of application
- Own the goods/services to be exported, or be able to provide documented evidence that you are the agreed export supplier
- Produce the goods/services to be exported in Australia, or be able to provide documented evidence that the business provides substantial value to NSW
- Be an exporting business with an annual turnover of:
 - up to \$100 million, or
 - greater than \$100 million that can demonstrate export turnover has declined by more than 30% in the 2019–20 financial year and have an intention to re-establish your export business in your established markets and/or diversify into new markets.

Applications close at 11:59pm on 31 December 2021 or when the allocated funding is exhausted.

[\[learn more\]](#)



Infrastructure Grants

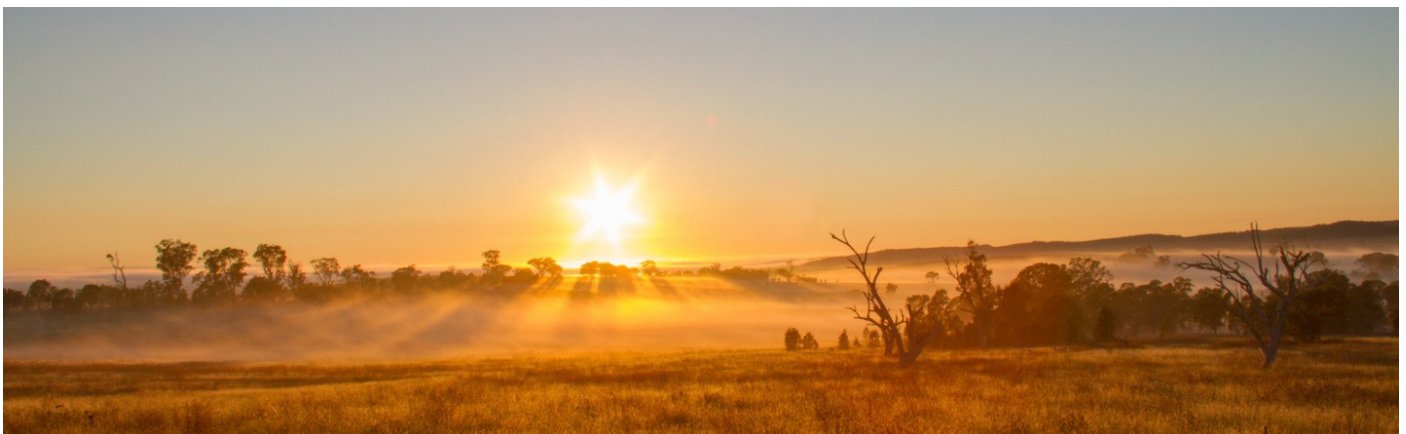
Infrastructure Grants can be used toward the costs of construction, alteration, renovation, completion and fit-out of buildings and community infrastructure in the following categories:

- Arts and Culture: \$50,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Community Infrastructure: \$10,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Disaster Readiness: \$10,000 to \$200,000 available per project
- Sport and Recreation: \$50,000 to \$300,000 available per project

The 2021/22 grant rounds will be open on the following dates:

- July 2021: Monday 5 July to Monday 26 July 2021
- November 2021: Monday 1 November to Monday 22 November 2021
- March 2022: Tuesday 1 March to Monday 21 March 2022

[\[learn more\]](#)



Regional NSW

Regional Tourism Activation Fund

The NSW Government's Regional Tourism Activation Fund supports the development of unique and high impact tourism and events infrastructure that helps to boost local economies, create jobs and ensure visitors to regional NSW have unforgettable experiences that encourage repeat visitation. The Regional Tourism Activation Fund is also aiming to boost regional tourism and improve the visitor experience for people with disability in regional NSW by making funding available for:

- The development of unique and high impact visitor experiences
- Visitor accessibility and inclusion enhancements

Types of project eligible for funding include:

- Construction of new tourism infrastructure and / or significant enhancements to existing infrastructure to create unique and high impact visitor experiences
- Upgrades and extensions to existing infrastructure to improve accessibility and inclusion linked to unique and high impact visitor experiences

The Regional Tourism Activation Fund will be available through two funding streams.

Stream 1: Unique and high impact visitor experiences

Grants between \$200,000 and \$5 million are available for projects that create unique and high impact visitor experiences for people visiting regional NSW and encourage more people to plan and book holidays in regional areas.

Stream 2: Visitor accessibility and inclusion enhancements

Grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000 are available for projects that improve accessibility and inclusion at unique and high impact tourism destinations and visitor experiences.

Applications close 12pm Wednesday, 11 August 2021

Webinar is available [here](#).

[\[find out more\]](#)

Regional Events Acceleration Fund

To support the social and economic recovery of our regions, the NSW Government's \$20 million Regional Events Acceleration Fund helps organisations to:

- Attract new major international and domestic events to regional areas
- Make existing regional events even bigger and better.

Funding will help meet the costs of attracting or retaining major events, such as premier sporting fixtures or competitions, and helps fund the operational and infrastructure improvements existing events need to increase visitation and length of stay.

Webinar is available [here](#).



Farm Business Resilience Program

The Farm Business Resilience Program is a new program to help farmers, farm managers and their employees prepare for and manage risk, adapt to a changing climate and improve their business' economic, environmental and social resilience.

Farmers will receive an expert coach who works with them and helps with their farming business, people and anything else that pops up. What do you get?

- One hour of one-on-one coaching via phone or video every fortnight
- Eleven months of support from your coach
- Phone and email support from your coach
- Four group coaching workshops
- Four farm tours of participant's farms

The cost is \$450 for small farm enterprises (market value \$25,000 - \$30,000) or \$1,500 for large farming business (over \$50K annually). For more information or to register your interest, click [HERE](#).



Mouse Control Rebate

Households and small business owners, including primary producers and sole traders with less than 20 employees, within eligible local government areas can claim a rebate for the following products or services purchased from 1 February 2021:

- Household grade mouse baits
- Mousetraps
- Cleaning products

- Professional pest control services
- Professional cleaning services

Eligible households can apply for rebates up to \$500. Eligible primary producers and small businesses will be able to apply for rebates up to \$1,000.

Eligibility

To be eligible to claim the NSW mouse control rebate, you must:

- Be aged 18 or over
- Have a household, business or farm address within an eligible local government area (LGA), in the following regions:
 - Central Tablelands
 - Central West
 - Hunter (Upper Hunter, Singleton and Muswellbrook LGAs only)
 - Murray
 - North West
 - Northern Tablelands
 - Riverina
 - South East (Hilltops, Upper Lachlan and Yass Valley LGAs only)
 - Western

For the household rebate, you must also:

- Rent or own your property
- Notify the tenant that you are making a claim, if you are a landlord.

For the small business and primary producer rebate, you must also:

- Be a sole trader or employ fewer than 20 employees
- Have a current and active Australian Business Number (ABN) registered before 13 May 2021.

Applications for the NSW Mouse Control Rebate will be open from Monday 5 July 2021 on the Service NSW website.

The application period will close on 27 September 2021, however, the rebate may end sooner if the allocated funding amount is reached before this date. Customers should complete their applications as soon as possible.

[\[find out more\]](#)



Jobs Plus Program

The Jobs Plus program offers support from the NSW Government to Australian and international companies who are looking to start or expand business operations in NSW.

If you want to enter or expand your business in NSW by starting a project that will create jobs, Jobs Plus could help reduce the costs and financial risks for your company, while strengthening the local economy.

Jobs Plus is open to businesses who create at least a net growth of 30 new full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs as part of a business project in NSW before 30 June 2024. One FTE job is equal to a ‘standard working week’ of 35 hours for ongoing roles. Full time roles can claim 1 FTE and part-time roles can claim a proportion of 1 FTE on a pro-rata basis.

Companies must apply for Jobs Plus and start hiring new staff before 30 June 2022. All new staff must also live, and be paid, in NSW.

What projects qualify for Jobs Plus?

Your company should be capable of running a successful business venture or project that will create 30 new jobs in NSW to qualify for support. A ‘project’ is defined as planned business activities with capital investment leading to job creation with an overall increase of at least 30 permanent, ongoing FTE employees before 30 June 2024.

Examples of eligible projects include activities that invest in equipment and facilities. These include:

- Relocating your business operation from out-of-state or internationally to NSW
- Establishing or adding a production line to your existing NSW business
- Developing a new product or service
- Transferring business activities that are currently performed by your company overseas to NSW

What Jobs Plus provides

Jobs Plus provides benefits to companies based on how many new jobs are created by the proposed project in NSW. Support levels are tiered so companies could benefit from the following:

- Jobs Plus Concierge Service
- Payroll tax relief for up to four years

- Subsidised training package rebates
- Infrastructure rebates
- Access to subsidised, short-term Government accommodation and spaces
- Assistance with planning approvals in NSW

[\[Learn more\]](#)



WaterFix® Small Business Program has been extended

Sydney Water's WaterFix program has been extended until December 2021.

What is WaterFix® Small Business?

Small business may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 towards a water assessment, fixtures and efficient devices for their business.

You can check your eligibility by emailing WaterFixSmallBiz@sydneywater.com.au

[\[view the WaterFix® brochure here\]](#)



AUSTRALIAN
COMPETITION
& CONSUMER
COMMISSION

Small business information network

Changes to Consumer Guarantees

On 1 July 2021, the value of goods covered by the definition of 'consumer' under the Australian Consumer Law increased from \$40,000 to \$100,000. This means that the consumer guarantees will apply to more transactions, including when businesses sell to other business.

What is covered

Businesses must guarantee products and services they sell, hire or lease that are:

- Under \$100,000
- Over \$100,000 if they are normally bought for personal or household use
- Business vehicles and trailers, provided they are used mainly to transport goods.

There are some [exceptions](#). For example, products purchased to be resold, or to be transformed into a product that is sold, are not covered.

What are consumer guarantees?

Businesses must provide these [automatic guarantees](#) regardless of any other warranties. If a product or service fails to meet a consumer guarantee, the consumer has the right to a remedy.

A 'major failure' is when a reasonable consumer wouldn't have bought the product or service if they had known about the nature and extent of the failure. In these cases, the consumer can choose to have a product [repaired, replaced or refunded](#). For a service, they can:

- End the contract and seek a refund
- Keep the contract and be compensated for any drop in value.

For other kinds of failure, the business can choose the remedy, but it must do so within a reasonable time. Possible remedies include:

- Repairing the faulty good
- Replacing it with an identical good
- Refunding the consumer
- Repairing any defect in the service provided.

Find out more about consumer guarantees and other [rules businesses need to follow](#) when treating customers fairly.

**minimum wage
to increase by
2.5%**



Minimum Wage Increase

The Fair Work Commission has announced its annual wage review decision for 2021 to increase the minimum wage by 2.5%. The decision took effect in a phased approach from 1 July 2021, with the national minimum wage rate rising from \$19.84 to \$20.33 per hour. For more detail, click [HERE](#).