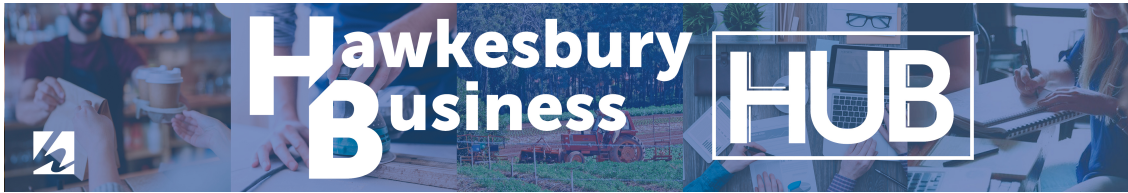


[View this email in your browser](#)

Welcome to this month's newsletter

This edition includes:

- [From Mayor Conolly's Desk](#)
- **\$50,000 flood disaster recovery grant now available**
- [Council's Draft Procurement Policy on exhibition](#)
- [Council's Draft Business Recovery Plan on exhibition](#)
- [Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate](#)
- [ICN Procurement Webinar](#)
- [Export Assistance Grant](#)
- [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#)
- [Online Water Monitoring Pilot Program](#)
- [COVID IT Fraud Awareness for business](#)
- [Free online workshops in May](#)

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 Conolly's desk](#)

With the floodwaters having subsided, it is clear that the road to recovery for many of our businesses, particularly along the river, will be a long and difficult process.

I am pleased that the state government has announced grants of up to \$50,000 for flood affected businesses. I encourage any local



business that was impacted by the floods to apply.

Council's commitment to local businesses has renewed focus with its Draft Procurement policy currently and Draft Business Recovery Plan on exhibition . A key platform of the procurement policy is to use local suppliers where possible.

I encourage you to make the most of the information, courses and grant opportunities contained in this newsletter. By supporting the knowledge and recovery of our local business community, we are improving the Hawkesbury for everyone.



[\\$50,000 flood disaster recovery grant now available](#)

If the recent NSW floods and storms have directly impacted your business, you may be eligible for the NSW Government's Flood Disaster Recovery Small Business Grant of up to \$50,000.

Who can apply?

The grant is available for small businesses or not-for-profit organisations directly impacted by the NSW storms and floods from 10 March 2021 onwards.

What the grant can be used for?

It can help pay for costs associated with flood clean-up and getting your business back up and running. Eligible expenses include (but are not limited to):

- clean up
- leasing temporary premises
- replacing lost or damaged stock

- tradespeople
- hiring equipment
- safety inspections

How to apply

When you click on 'Start application' below you'll see the eligibility list and the documentation you'll need to apply.

What happens next?

Service NSW will assess your application and will contact you if further supporting documentation is required. If your application isn't successful, you will be notified via email.

If your application is approved, payment will be transferred to your specified bank account within five business days.

Start application [HERE](#)

If you need further flood support please use our [Disaster Assistance Finder](#).

Register with a Service NSW Business Concierge for ongoing flood assistance and support [Call 13 77 88](#) or [request a call-back](#)



Council's Draft Procurement Policy is on exhibition

Hawkesbury City Council has prepared a Draft Procurement Policy to guide its approach to purchasing goods, works and services. The policy will support Council's commitment to using local suppliers as well as promote sustainable and socially responsible procurement principles.

Council currently undertakes 23.5% of its business with local suppliers and it is hoped that the implementation of the proposed Policy has the potential to significantly increase local procurement.

Council's policy also aims to:

- apply Best Practice procurement processes that comply with all legislative requirements

- be open, honest, transparent, ethical and accountable in all dealings
- ensure that appropriate protections are afforded to commercially sensitive and confidential material that is provided to Council by suppliers
- ensure the promotion of fairness and competition
- obtain value for money.

Council's Draft Procurement Policy is available for view and comment on Council's website www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au via the Have Your Say tab or the link www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or between 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday at Council's Administration Building at 366 George Street, Windsor from Thursday, 15 April 2021 until Thursday, 13 May 2021.

All submissions will be taken into account by Council staff in assessing the proposal. Details of how to provide a submission are included on Council's Your Hawkesbury Your Say community engagement site www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au If you would like to make a submission, please quote Reference: 'Draft Procurement Policy'. Submissions may be made by completing an online submission via www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au or in writing, addressed to the General Manager, Hawkesbury City Council, PO Box 146, Windsor NSW 2756, or by email to council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au up to Thursday, 13 May 2021 inclusive. Council will consider all submissions received at a subsequent Council Meeting.

For any enquiries, please contact Emma Galea Acting Director Support Services, on 4560 4444 or email council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

[Draft Business Recovery Plan](#)

Hawkesbury City Council is inviting community members to view and comment on Council's Draft Business Recovery Plan, which will be on public exhibition until Thursday, 13 May 2021.

The Draft Business Recovery Plan has been developed in context of the recent bushfires, floods and the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of these events has had a compounding effect on the local business community. Council understands the importance of supporting business through this recovery period and this plan seeks to assist the Hawkesbury business community to:

- improve the resilience, skills and networking among business owners
- increase levels of visitation and spending by Sydneysiders
- attract new investment in the form of new businesses, new residents and construction.

A copy of the Draft Business Recovery Plan can be viewed at:

- Council's Administration Building, 366 George Street, Windsor, Monday to Friday during opening hours from 9am to 4pm
- Richmond Branch Library, 29 West Market Street, Richmond, Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 1pm
- Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street, Windsor, Monday to Friday from 9am to 7pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm and Sunday 2pm to 5pm.

The documents may also be viewed on Council's website at www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au via the Have Your Say tab or the direct link at www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au

Council will receive submissions in writing, addressed to the General Manager, by mail to Hawkesbury City Council, PO Box 146 Windsor NSW 2756, or by email to council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au up to close of business on Thursday, 13 May 2021.

Should you lodge a submission, it will be considered, along with any other submissions received and may be included in a Council meeting business paper. Your submission, including any personal information, is accessible by any person upon written application, subject to Council's Privacy Management Plan and the Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009. The inclusion of personal information in your submission is voluntary, however, if not provided, may affect consideration of the submission. The information will ultimately be stored in Council's records system.

Should you have any enquiries with respect to this matter, please contact Amanda Kearney, Council's City Design & Economic Development Manager on 4560 4444 or attention email enquiries to council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au with reference to the Draft Business Recovery Plan.



[Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate](#)

The Small Business Fees and Charges Rebate will be available for eligible small businesses and not-for-profits in early April.

Key eligibility criteria state that the applicant:

- must be a small business (including non-employing sole-traders) or a not-for-profit organisation
- have total Australian wages below the NSW Government 2020-2021 payroll tax threshold of \$1.2 million
- have an Australian Business Number (ABN) registered in NSW and/or have business premises physically located and operating in NSW
- be registered for goods and services tax (GST)
- provide a declaration that the business has a turnover of at least \$75,000 per year.

The online application form is expected to be available on the Service NSW website from early April 2021

Eligibility criteria and guidelines have been published on the Service NSW website:

Small business fees and charges rebate | Service NSW

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate>

Small business fees and charges rebate – Guidelines | Service NSW

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate-guidelines>



[Procurement webinar to help businesses find more buyers for their products and services](#)

Monday 10 May 2021, 10.00 - 11.00am (free webinar)

When it comes to finding new business opportunities, one of the biggest challenges can be breaking into new or expanding supply chains. This webinar will present the services of Industry Capability Network (ICN) which links suppliers with buyers across Australia and NZ.

For more than 30 years ICN has worked to keep local industry participation strong and make it easy for companies to find new business opportunities which fit their business profile.

Recent examples of business opportunities range from major road and rail infrastructure projects, defence projects, and supplying ICT services to government, to collaborations to manufacture ventilators, and supplying packaging to food manufacturers.

The interactive webinar will cover:

- The role of ICN in introducing businesses to projects large and small across ANZ
- Registering the capabilities of your business with ICN
- Subscribing to new project alerts
- Connecting with suppliers, projects and buyers
- Accessing the public list of over 200 projects in the pipeline for NSW

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/boost-your-business-by-finding-more-buyers-for-your-products-and-services-registration-151597539321>



Export Assistance Grant – don't miss your

[opportunity to apply](#)

Would you like financial assistance with export costs?

The \$10 million NSW Government Export Assistance Grants scheme supports export businesses.

The New South Wales Government is assisting businesses in accessing global markets by supporting export marketing and development activities.

Reimbursement of 50% of eligible expenses, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per eligible business is available for current or previously exporting businesses enabling access to new or re-entering previous markets.

But hurry, applications close soon. For more details including eligibility and how to apply, visit the Service NSW website.

[Click Here](#) to apply for the NSW Government Export Assistance Grant.

[Rural Financial Counselling Services](#)



Small Business Financial Counsellor is now in your area

Talk to a small business financial counsellor. It's a free, confidential service. They can give you individual support and create a tailored recovery plan.

Mob: 0427 458 647 Ph:(02) 6551 5879

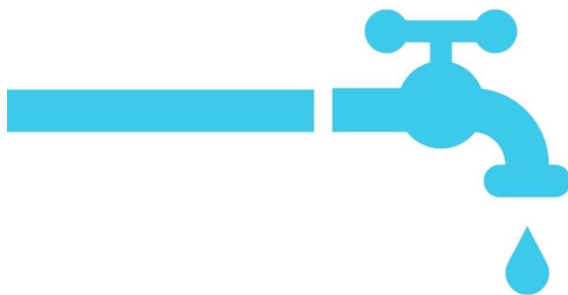
Small Business Financial Counsellors

Is your small regional business experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship due to the impacts of drought, bushfire or COVID-19?

We understand this has been a difficult time for small regional businesses that rely on primary production and thriving communities to survive. To help businesses with the challenges they are experiencing and get back on their feet, the Australian Government is investing more than \$12.7 million in small business financial counselling:

This support will run until 30 June 2021, which will help you to:

- better understand your financial position
- connect with government programs and assistance schemes
- identify long-term recovery options
- implement plans to improve the viability of your business
- access broader professional advice and support.



Every Drop Counts

Online Water Monitoring pilot program for business

Sydney Water is currently trialling an Online Monitoring service and is offering businesses the opportunity to install a data logger on the main water meter, to detect early leaks or abnormal water usage.

Online Monitoring keeps track of water consumption and detects possible leaks early, helping businesses to save money and better manage water use while saving Sydney's precious water. It works by attaching a data logger to the main meter, making it a 'smart' meter, which measures water usage at regular intervals, in real-time. This data is accessible via an online portal that can be accessed at any time, giving full visibility of on-site water consumption. You can also set alerts that will notify a nominated person through email if there's a sudden change in water use.

The pilot offer is heavily subsidised for businesses and offers real value for money by providing:

- early leak detection
- real-time data for reporting
- early notification of abnormal water consumption
- baseline data to track the success of new water savings devices

For more information and to be one of the first to participate in our pilot program, please contact onlinemonitoring@sydneywater.com.au

Waterfix® Small Business Pilot offer

For a very limited number of customers who participate in our Pilot program, we may offer a subsidy of up to \$1,000 (Inc GST). This subsidy includes a call out and water efficiency assessment valued at \$110, as well as works completed by us that result in water savings, such as:

- Leak repairs
- Installation of WELS star rated aeration devices
- WELS 4-star rated showerhead replacements
- WELS rated tap replacements
- Installation of water-efficient pre-rinse spray valves

To be eligible to participate in the pilot and have access to the subsidy, work must be completed by us prior to the end of the pilot period, 30 June 2021.

The Service

During our appointment, our plumber will complete a water efficiency assessment, where they will check the fixtures and devices in each water using area for leaks and water efficiency. Our plumber may offer to repair minor leaks and install WELS rated aeration devices during this appointment if they are

satisfied the costs of such works is covered by our subsidy.

After their water efficiency assessment, they will discuss water saving opportunities and our recommendations and should the business wish to proceed we can potentially complete on the same day.

Business Type Groups

- Childcare services
- Preschools
- Cafes, takeaway food and restaurants
- Health, fitness centres and gyms
- Hairdressing and beauty services
- Medical Centres
- Religious Services

COVID IT Fraud Awareness for business & government

Scam risks have increased as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts it has had on our daily life, including loss of jobs and financial vulnerability, fear of infection, and shortage of particular goods and services. A short COVID fraud awareness guide for business has been published on business.gov.au to help you recognise common scams and share tips on how you can protect your business and customers.

WSBC free online training

Western Sydney Business Centre is offering a series of free webinars to help businesses acquire and refine essential skills. Click [here](#) to learn more.



WESTERN SYDNEY
BUSINESS CENTRE

SEO Basic

Thursday 4 May, 10am-12pm

[Book Here](#)

How to save 5 hours every week on your business with automation

Wednesday 5 May, 10am-12pm

[Book Here](#)

Cyber Security Tips During & Post COVID-19

[Book Here](#)

Thursday 8 April, 10am-11am

Blogging Made Easy and Effective

[Book Here](#)

Tuesday 13 April, 10am-12pm

Online Brand 2.0

[Book Here](#)

Wednesday 14 April, 10am-12pm

Digital Basic

[Book Here](#)

Thursday 15 April, 10am-12pm

How to use Email Marketing & SMS Marketing

[Book Here](#)

Monday 19 April, 9:30am-12pm

DIY Tools for Successful Social Media Marketing

[Book Here](#)

Tuesday 20 April, 10am-12pm

How to Start a Small Business

[Book Here](#)

Wednesday 21 April, 6pm-8pm

Design basics for small businesses

[Book Here](#)

Wednesday 21 April, 6pm-8pm

How to Start a Small Business

[Book Here](#)

Friday 23 April, 10am-12pm

Business Planning Essentials

[Book Here](#)

Tuesday 27 April, 10am-12pm



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