



1. Mayoral Column

2. In the Hawkesbury

- 2.1. The Hawkesbury Show
- 2.2. Hawkesbury Fest Small Business Sponsorships
- 2.3. Hawkesbury Community Hubs
- 2.4. Free Business Health Checks
- 2.5. Draft Operational Plan 2025/2025
- 2.6. Spendmapp

3. Business News & Updates

- 3.1. Be Prepared, Informed and Ready this bushfire season
- 3.2. Agritourism Planning Changes in NSW
- 3.3. New Active and Creative Kids Voucher Program
- 3.4. Love Food, Hate Waste?
- 3.5. Free Food Handler Training for Standard 3.2.2A
- 3.6. Fireworks Displays
- 3.7. Liquid Trade Waste

4. Business Grants & Funding

- 4.1. Energy efficiency grants for small and medium enterprises
- 4.2. Bin Trim Equipment Rebates Program
- 4.3. Grants and Program Finder
- 4.4. New platform helps small businesses with tax and super
- 4.5. More grants, rebates and support for small business
- 4.6. Australian Taxation Office Webinars

5. Upcoming Workshops

- 5.1. Composting
- 5.2. Clever ways to increase online sales
- 5.3. Building resilience for your business
- 5.4. Starting, launching and scaling up an agri-food tech startup
- 5.5. Navigating through Government panels and schemes
- 5.6. Create your online brand presence
- 5.7. HR essentials – employment

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 business@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.



Welcome to the April edition of the business newsletter.

The Hawkesbury Regional Gallery recently enjoyed the most fabulously huge opening weekend for the Archibald Prize 2023! I was privileged to open the event on Friday night and more than 300 people came along to celebrate. I was joined by finalists from the Archibald Prize 2023 such as artist Laura Jones, Oliver Shepherd, and Alanah Ellen Brand, and guest speaker Maud Page (Deputy Director and Director of Collections, Art Gallery of NSW) and Ava Zan who provided beautiful music throughout the evening! The exhibition continues in The Hawkesbury Regional Gallery until Sunday 28 April, and I would encourage everyone to pop along and have a look.

The Hawkesbury Show is back for 2024! The Show is run by the wonderful Hawkesbury District Agricultural Association and their volunteers between 19 April to 21 April at the Showground. As every year Council will be popping up at the Show. As a proud sponsor of the Show Council will be 'popping up' and the Council tent will be an exciting display providing information on our many services, updates on major projects and heaps of giveaways! Pop by, ask some questions, leave your feedback, and find out what Council is doing in your community!

Council's Operational Plan will be on public exhibition from 10 April - 7 May. The Operational Plan is the list of all Council projects that we plan to complete in the following year. It is essential reading for anyone who wants to know what we have planned.

Sincerely, Mayor Sarah McMahon

In the Hawkesbury



The Hawkesbury Show

Council will be popping up once again at the Hawkesbury Show with a whole heap of fun and engaging activities including our award-winning passport and make your own badge activity. Tom from Hooked by Nature (a local Hawkesbury business) will be running workshops all weekend on water bugs, pond building, frog hotels, education talks on our environment, platypus protection and mosquito control.

Our teams will be showcasing a variety of upcoming projects where we want you to have your say, these include opportunities to say, 'what culture means to you', 'What is important to you in our Hawkesbury' and also the opportunity to provide feedback on the upcoming Western Sydney Infrastructure Program.

River Safety will feature in our tent with a sustainable artwork made by the Hawkesbury Remakery. We will be asking visitors to pledge that they will be river safe in our River. Our sustainability, community and Bushcare/ Nursery team will be asking you to complete a small trail to learn more about our environment plus we have loads of Sustainable giveaways and roving entertainment from 10am – 1pm on Saturday.

So, make sure you stop and say hello to the team. Our tent is located in the emergency services zone.



Hawkesbury Fest Small Business Sponsorships - Sunday 4 August 2024 at Governor Phillip Park

Our \$500 small business partner opportunities are now available to snap up. Email or call the events team to discuss the cost and inclusions.

For more information, please contact 4560 4404 or events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au



Hawkesbury Community Hubs

Service NSW is offering the following services:

- Service NSW can support customers in accessing savings, rebates, and assistance to reduce the cost of living
- Energy rebates
- Transport
- Toll relief rebate
- Seniors Card
- Fee Free Apprenticeships
- Pension Travel Vouchers - more

Wilberforce School of Arts – Wednesday 6 March – 1 May
Colo Heights Community Hall – Thursday 7 March – 2 May

For more information call 137788, or visit [Online Appointment Scheduling - Online Appointment Scheduling \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/online-appointment-scheduling) to book a flood recovery customer care face-to-face appointment.

For more Community Hubs updates, visit [Hawkesbury Community Hubs](https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/community-hubs).



Free Business Health Checks

Undertaking a Business Health Check can provide useful insights to help you prioritise the next steps in growing your local business. The Business Health Check is designed to identify opportunities and potential pitfalls customers need to be aware of to help their business thrive.

In the session you may undergo an assessment of the business' financial performance, risks, and structures. They are designed to identify opportunities and potential challenges to be aware of to help your business thrive. Plus, we deep dive into current sales, marketing, and operation plans.

The Business Health Checks are delivered in partnership with the Hawkesbury City Council, Western Sydney Business Centre, NSW Business Connect.

These are one-on-one sessions and places are limited.

Note, each health check is approximately 60 minutes induration (free of charge, as part of the 8 hours advisory sessions allocated each financial year from Business Connect).

Please ensure to include your suburb and the words HealthCheck in your request for a meeting with [Graham Fitzpatrick](#). Graham will be in contact within 24-48 business hours after request.

Date: Monday 22nd April 2024

Time: 1 hour will be allocated to you

Location: Hawkesbury Central Library – 300 George St, Windsor NSW 2756

Click here to request a booking - <https://wsbusiness.com.au/event/business-health-check-hawkesbury-lga-22april24/>

If you're interested in having a health check but are unable to make the 22 April reach out to Graham for an alternative appointment.

Meet your Business Connect representative.

Graham has a strong background in sales, business administration and management, marketing, business strategy, customer services and staff training, and having held multiple senior management roles through his career.

Graham has track record of driving business performance and delivering consistent increased revenue. Since joining Western Sydney Business Centre, Graham has supported hundreds of small businesses in the point-to-point and hire car industry so sustain through rival competition.

In addition to his small business and consulting experience, Graham holds a Diploma in Business and a Certificate IV in Business.





Draft Operational Plan 2024/2025 and Resourcing Strategy

Hawkesbury City Council is inviting community members to view and comment on Council's Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan, which is on public exhibition until Tuesday 7 May 2024.

The Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan has been developed to outline the proposed actions and projects for 2024/2025. It also includes information about rates, fees and charges and estimated income and expenditure.

The Draft Operational Plan can be found [here](#).

Key Economic Development and Business focused actions:

-
- Economic Development Strategy Implementation
- Local Business Procurement Education Program
- Local Business Workshop, Seminar and Skills Development Program
- Windsor Town Centre Liveability
- Greening Our City Grant
- Local Economy and Tourism Advocacy

Key documents under Council's Resourcing Strategy: the Long-Term Financial Plan 2024-2034 and Asset Management Strategy 2024-2034 support the Operational Plan, demonstrating how Council will resource and fund its future activities. These documents have been updated to incorporate Council's future resourcing opportunities and challenges and align with Council's priorities. They are being exhibited alongside the Operational Plan.

Copies of the draft documents can be viewed at:

- The document links on this page
- Council's Administration Building, 366 George Street, Windsor, Monday to Friday 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.

Council will receive submissions in writing via the form below or addressed to the General Manager, by mail to Hawkesbury City Council, PO Box 146 Windsor NSW 2756, or email to council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au received

up to close of business on Tuesday 7 May 2024.

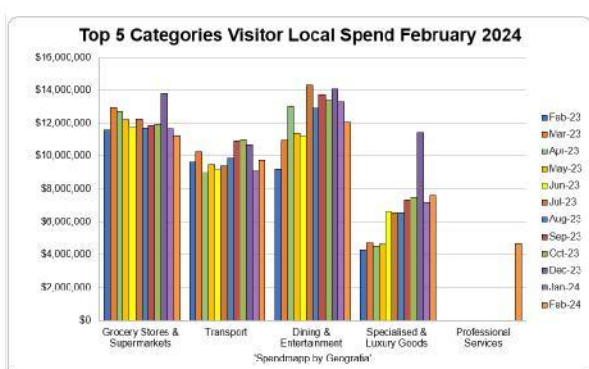
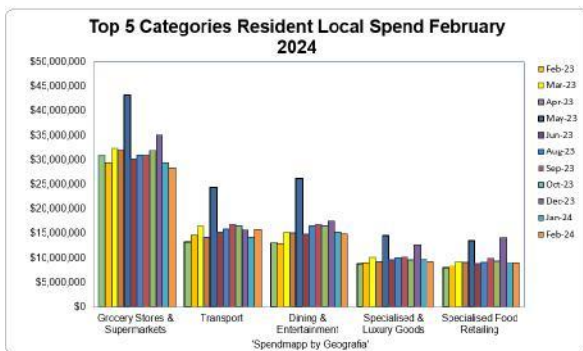
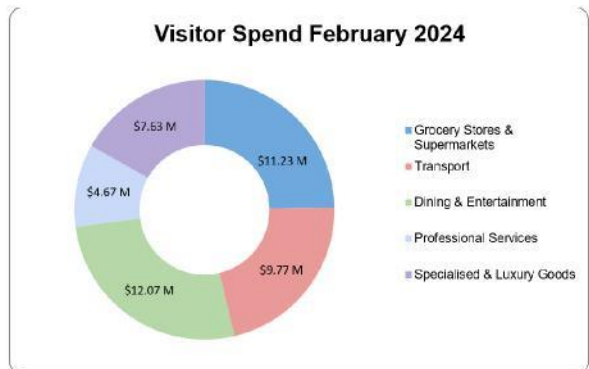
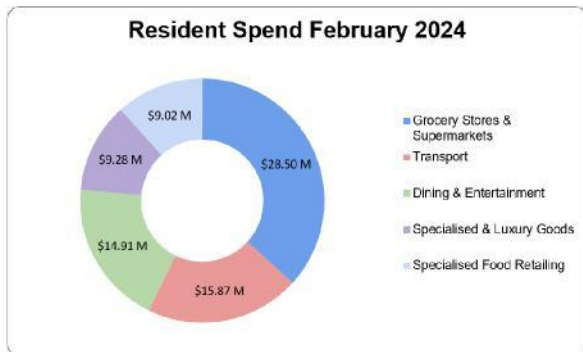
Should you lodge a submission, it will be considered, along with any other submissions received and may be included in a Council meeting business paper. Your submission, and any personal information, is accessible by any person upon written application, subject to Council’s Privacy Management Plan and 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 Miles Carter, Council’s Corporate Planning and Performance Strategist on 4560 4205 or attention email enquiries to council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au with reference to the ‘Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan and Resourcing Strategy’.



[Spendmapp](#), developed by Geografia, is an economic modelling tool used by several local government areas to measure consumer spending of locals and visitors geographically using bank data.

The tool helps Local Council’s and businesses gain a better understanding of the local economy by providing an insight into the visitor economy, online expenditure and escape expenditure. Using the data helps determine patterns of spending and can assist with managing and responding to long term economic trends and shocks.



February’s visitor spending had an increase in *Transport*, *Professional Services* and *Specialised & Luxury Goods* from the previous month. Meanwhile there was a decrease in spending for *Grocery Stores & Supermarkets* and *Dining & Entertainment*.

For the second month in a row, the category *Professional Services* has replaced *Specialised Food Retailing* to be in the top 5 categories of visitor local spending.

Resident spending in February shows an increase in *Transport* and *Specialised Food Retailing*. There was a decrease in spending of *Grocery Stores & Supermarkets*, *Dining & Entertainment* and *Specialised & Luxury Goods*.

Business News & Updates



Be prepared, informed and ready this bushfire season

As we come into what is set to be the most significant bushfire season since the 2019/20 black summer fires, businesses are being urged to prepare. There are many ways a bushfire can impact your business, such as road closures and blackouts, so even if you're not in a fire zone, you could still be at risk.

Preparing your business to withstand a bushfire or other natural disaster is vital for every business owner.

Visit [Council's Disaster and Emergency Dashboard](#) and [Prepared, Informed and Ready webpage](#) for more information on emergency preparedness in the Hawkesbury.

The NSW Small Business Commissioner's four Get Ready for Disasters guides and Get Ready for Disasters Kit can help you prepare so you can minimise impacts and get back to business sooner.



Agritourism planning changes in NSW

The NSW Government is making it easier for farmers to use their land for agritourism. The changes allow farmers to use exempt and complying development processes, which are quicker, cheaper and simpler than making development applications to a local council.

Please see the [New Guide](#) and the [Webinar](#) on creating world-class agritourism experiences.

This webinar explores how to create world-class agritourism experiences that exceed expectations and are also practical for farming businesses.

The session covers:

- Creating farm gate experiences and tours
- Developing farm-stay accommodation
- How to maximise seasonal opportunities.



New Active and Creative Kids Voucher Program

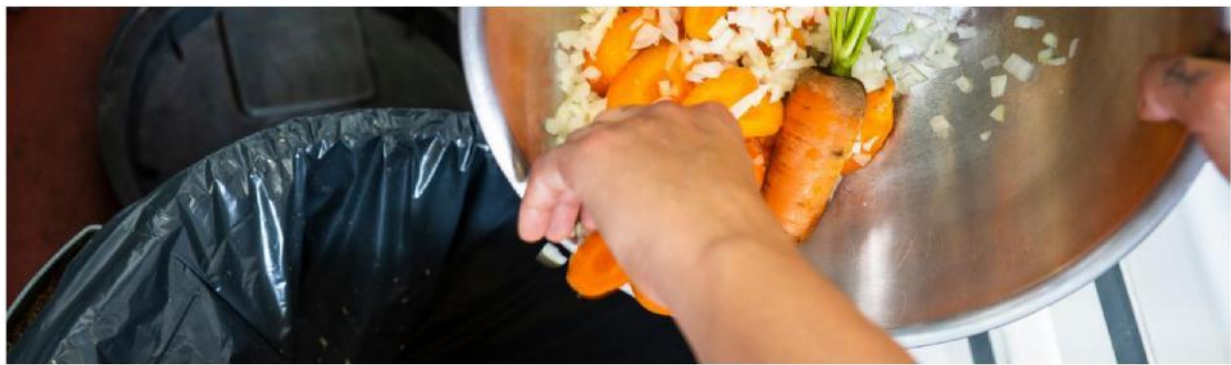
The new Active and Creative Kids voucher is now available, helping to make activities more affordable for eligible NSW families.

Parents, guardians, and carers of eligible school-aged children will be able to use two \$50 vouchers per calendar year.

About the new program

- Vouchers are available to those receiving [Family Tax Benefit Part A](#), or [Family Tax Benefit Part B](#), or both
- Vouchers can be downloaded as a QR code and used toward either an eligible physical or creative activity
- The \$50 vouchers will be issued in school term 1 and school term 3
- Vouchers must be redeemed before their expiry date

Download the guidelines to see [how to apply](#) and [how to accept your voucher](#), or visit the [website](#) for more information.



Love Food, Hate Waste?

Do you love food but hate waste? Hawkesbury City Council has put together some helpful tip for businesses on how to reduce waste and work more sustainably.

Register your business for a BYO container scheme

Demonstrate your commitment to reducing single-use plastic waste by registering your business with [BYO Containers](#).

Check what produce is in season

Reduce food wastage by planning meals based on what produce is in season. Use seasonal guides made by organisations like [Sustainable Table](#) to assist you in checking what's in season throughout the year.

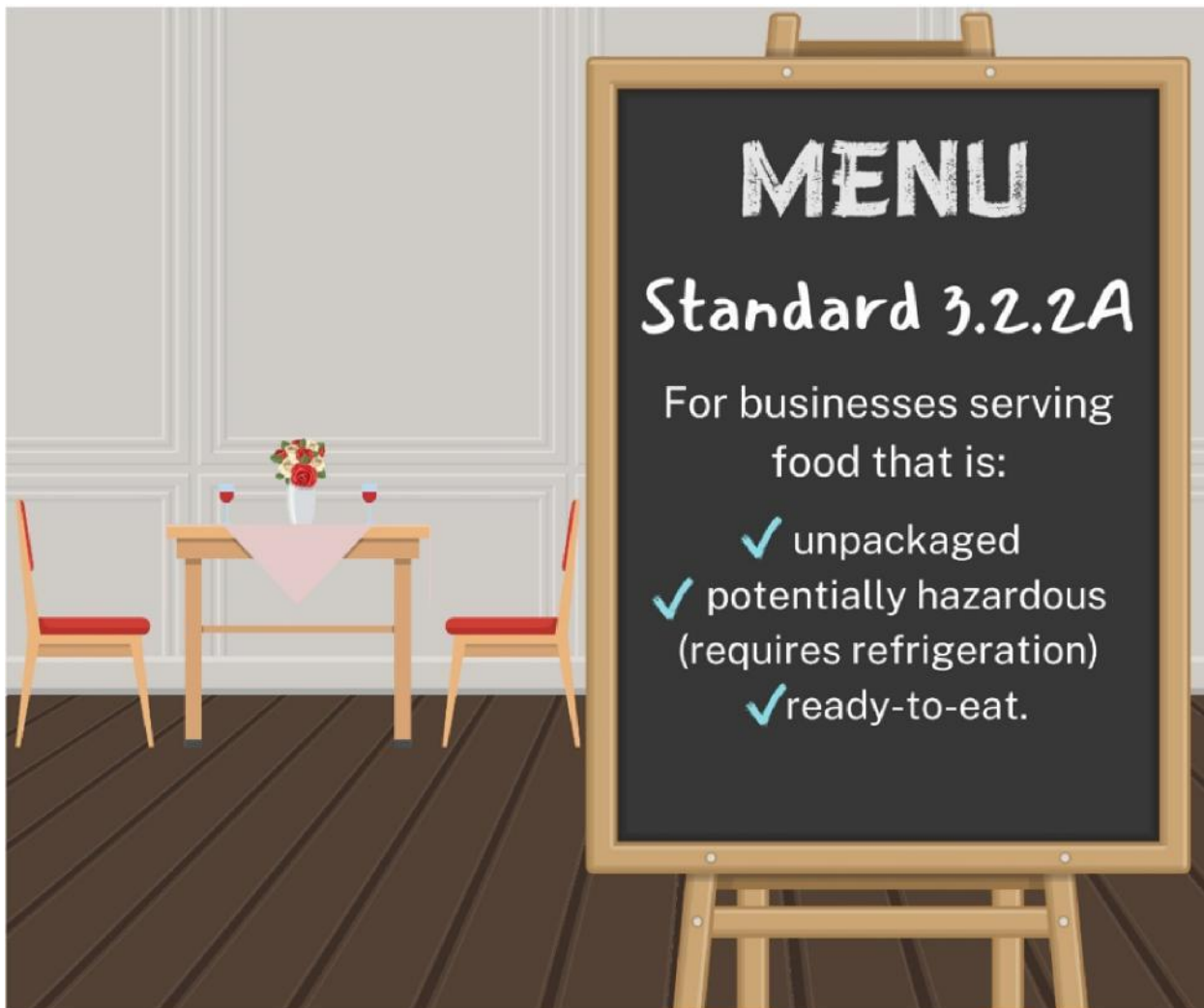
Donate your excess food

According to [Foodbanks 2023 Hunger Report](#), 3.7 million Australian households experienced food insecurity last year. Meanwhile, our 7.6 million tones of food is wasted in Australia every year. Help reduce food waste by helping those who are struggling to put food on the table. Donate excess food to your [local community services](#) or to organisations like [secondbite](#) and [OzHarvest](#).

Register your business for the EPA Bin Trim App

Bin Trim is a free online portal providing support to NSW businesses to help them avoid and reduce waste. [Sign up](#) to register a site, complete a waste assessment, create an action plan, and track your progress.

Download Councils Love food, hate waste flyer [here](#).



Free Food Handler Training for Standard 3.2.2A

Food service, caterer and related retail businesses in NSW need to meet new food safety requirements in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (the Code). The requirements apply to most businesses from 8 December 2023.

School canteens, children's services that supply food, supermarkets, greengrocers, delis, coffee vendors that sell food, correctional centres and boarding schools have until 8 December 2024 to comply.

Standard 3.2.2A aims to improve food safety by introducing 3 tools:

- Food Safety Supervisor (FSS)
- Food handler training
- Showing food is safe

If you already have a current FSS, you will only need to ensure other staff who handle unpackaged, potentially hazardous food have appropriate skills and knowledge in food safety and hygiene. Higher-risk businesses must also be able to show they are managing key food safety risks.

For other businesses, all the requirements are new, such as for children's services that supply food, school canteens, supermarkets, greengrocers, delis, coffee vendors that sell food, correctional centres, and boarding schools.

The requirements do not apply to the handling or sale of food for fundraising solely for community or charitable causes, providing food free to the community, or to businesses licensed with the Food Authority.

For more information, view the NSW Food Authority [webpage](#).



Fireworks Displays

All pyrotechnic displays, celebrations and promotions require a pyrotechnicians license or fireworks (single use) license issued by [SafeWork NSW](#).

The licensee must notify SafeWork NSW and the local council of an intention to use any fireworks, crackers, distress signal or model rocket propellant device at least 7 working days before the fireworks, signal or device is to be used.

For more information visit [Fireworks | Hawkesbury City Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#).



Liquid Trade Waste - What is it?

Liquid trade waste is all liquid waste generated from industrial and commercial premises that is discharged to the sewer system. Does not include human personal hygiene waste.

Does my business need a Liquid Trade Waste Approval with Hawkesbury City Council?

The policy and guidelines describe liquid trade waste in more detail and the requirements.

For more information on whether your business requires a permit, go to <https://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/for-business/approvals-permits-and-regulations/liquid-trade-waste>.

Business Grants & Funding



Energy efficiency grants for small and medium enterprises

Applications for Round 2 of the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises have recently opened, supporting eligible businesses to upgrade or replace inefficient equipment to improve energy efficiency.

The grant program aims to help businesses reduce their energy usage, manage long term energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute to Australia's target of a 43% reduction on 2005 emission levels by 2030.

Download the [grant opportunity guidelines](#) or visit the [website](#) for more information.



Bin Trim Equipment Rebates Program

As of November 2023, new rebates have become available as part of the Bin Trim Equipment Rebates Program.

The program, which provides rebates of \$50,000 to cover up to 50% of the cost of small-scale, on-site recycling equipment or technology, is available to businesses, councils, and government organisations.

\$6 million is available for rebates until 30 June 2027, or until all funding is exhausted.

[Guidelines \(PDF 562KB\)](#) and details on how to apply online can be found at <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/bintrim-rebates>.

A bin trim visual waste assessment is required before application. Self-assessments can be done using the [Bin Trim app](#).



Grants and Program Finder

Use the Australian Government's [Grants and Program Finder](#) tool to explore what grants, funding and support programs are available to you. Search by location, industry, support type, business structure and more.



New platform helps small business with tax and super

The ATO has launched a new online learning platform offering free courses to help small business owners and operators with their tax and super obligations.

The [Essentials to strengthen your small business](#) website includes more than 20 short courses and a calendar of key lodgment due dates.

Content includes videos, case studies, audio content and written information, as well as the option to test your knowledge with quick quizzes. The content focuses on areas where small business owners often make mistakes, such as the GST and business deductions and also offers help on core business management issues.

Course titles include:

- Starting a small business
- Goods and services tax (GST)
- Using your business money and assets
- Record keeping
- Claiming small business tax deductions
- Growing your small business



More grants, rebates and support for small business

Explore some of the financial supports available to NSW businesses right now.

Regional Skills Relocation Grant NSW

This program helps regional NSW businesses in identified industries attract skilled and specialised employees from NSW metropolitan areas, interstate or internationally, to regional NSW. Funding of up to \$12,500 is available. [More information](#)

Electric vehicles rebate

The NSW Government is offering \$3,000 rebates for the first 25,000 new battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles with a dutiable value of less than \$68,750. This incentive, along with the abolition of stamp duty, will save eligible EV purchasers up to \$5,540. [More information](#)

Small Business Export Loan

The Small Business Export Loan provides small to medium export businesses with loans to cover up to 80% of the costs to secure an export contract or purchase order with an overseas buyer. Loans of between \$20,000 and \$350,000 are available, to cover up to 80% of your export contract(s) or purchase order(s). [More information](#)



Australian Taxation Office Webinars

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) is offering free webinars to help you improve your knowledge about starting and running a small business. Each webinar is a live, interactive online seminar presented by experienced taxation officers.

Some of the most popular upcoming webinars we recommend include:

- [Considering your small business viability](#)
- [Employer: Hiring workers](#)
- [Goods and services tax \(GST\) introduction](#)

Browse the ATO website for other webinars offered.

Upcoming Workshops



Composting

3 April 2024, 11am - 1pm (face-to-face)

[Register](#)



Clever ways to increase online sales

9 April 2024, 10:30am - 12pm (online)

[Register](#)



Building resilience for your business

9 April 2024, 1pm - 2pm (online)

[Register](#)



Starting, launching and scaling up an agrifood tech startup

15 April - 27 May (online)

[Register](#)



Navigating through Government panels and schemes

18 April 2024, 3pm - 6pm (online)

[Register](#)



Create your online brand presence

23 April 2024, 10am - 12pm (online)

[Register](#)



HR essentials - employment

30 April 2024, 11am - 12:30pm (online)

[Register](#)

Copyright © 2023 Hawkesbury City Council. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Hawkesbury City Council
366 George Street
Windsor, NSW 2756
Australia

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update your preferences](#)