

# CEO update

## COVID-19 Community Support

An overview of what we're doing to help during this time of crisis.

### Overview

Everyone in our community is in some way affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: financially, socially and/or mentally. Council and the Shire are working tirelessly to support our community through this difficult time.

### Financial support

To help mitigate some of the financial impacts being felt across the community in the short to medium term, Council approved the Shire's COVID-19 Support Package. This package comprises a mix of funding and in-kind support and includes:

- expediting planned capital projects in the coming months to ensure employment and business opportunities for the local community;
- advocating for a freeze on increases to water, sewerage and electricity rates for the 2020/2021 financial year;
- a freeze on the Shire rates increase for 2020/21;
- a freeze on the Shire waste collection increase for 2020/21;
- a reduction in the differential rate in the dollar for holiday accommodation to the residential rate;
- concessions on Trust land lease fees for 2020/21 for leaseholders suffering from financial hardship; and
- the short-term employment of a grants officer to help the community access government assistance offerings.

### Community support

Health and wellbeing, and having access to relevant information, is critical during this time. Shire employees are continuing to work hard to provide community supports. These supports include:

- social visits to people in isolation;
- daily, and now weekly, COVID-19 updates containing information specific to Cocos in English and Cocos Malay;
- fact sheets containing information specific to Cocos in English and Cocos Malay; and
- preparation and distribution of COVID-19 Safety Kits to assist businesses to develop and implement COVID-19 Safety Plans;

## **Advocacy**

The Shire is representing the local community, and advocating for supports, both directly to the responsible Australian Government officers and via its roles on the Emergency Management Committee and the Regional Development Organisation.

## **Contact us**

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