



Stage One COVID-19 Community and Business Support Package

Supporting our community members, groups and local businesses during the coronavirus pandemic.

Baw Baw Shire Council has launched a \$440,000 stage-one community and business support package to financially assist residents, sporting clubs, community groups and local businesses in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ratepayer and resident supports



Rates relief

Extension of payment terms for fourth instalment rates notices from 31 May to 30 June 2020. Penalty interest will be exempt for this period.

Hardship Policy

Review of Council's Hardship Policy.

Disabled parking permits

Free extension of all disabled parking permits until 30 June 2020.

Community support programs

Access to community support programs including but not limited to meals on wheels, shopping assistance, respite care, home maintenance, family day care and immunisations.

Sport and community group supports



Annual fee waiver

Waive all winter and annual fees for community sporting clubs including utility services such as water, electricity and gas (excluding usage).

Property fee waiver

Waive the annual fee and covering utility service to property charges for other community clubs tenanted who typically pay annual fees.

Local business supports



Refund/waiver of Local Law Permits

50 per cent refund/waiver of eligible new and existing permits under the Community Local Law for six months from 1 March to 1 September 2020 (includes roadside trading, A-frame and outdoor dining permits).

Refund/waiver of Food and Public Health Permits

50 per cent refund/waiver of eligible new and existing permits under the Food Act and Public Health and Wellbeing Act for six months from 1 March to 1 September 2020 (includes class 1, 2 and 3 food business permits and streatrader, accommodation, hair, skin and beauty premises permits).

Waiver of Planning Advice Fees

Waiver of all charges for written planning advice fees for eligible small to medium businesses for six months from 1 March to 1 September 2020.

Fast-tracking Council Infrastructure Projects

Fast-tracked Council procurement processes to award infrastructure projects sooner to invest funds and provide jobs in the local economy. Additionally, for the next 12 months, the weighting of local suppliers will be increased from 10% to 20%.

Baw Baw Business Grant Program

Launch of a Baw Baw Business Grant Program to assist local business with the impacts of COVID-19. Details and eligibility criteria will be made available soon.

Virtual Farmers Market

Virtual Farmers Market free for businesses, makers and stall holders from Baw Baw Shire.

Business Support

Direct support, advice and business promotion through Council's Economic Development team. Free access to online training, webinars and business mentoring sessions.

Stage-one support timelines



All stage-one initiatives will be in place for a six-month period. An additional stage-two support package will be considered in July, pending the status of the evolving situation. All initiatives will be live by (or before) 1 June 2020.