



# THE PALLAS POST

## Tim Pallas MP

State Labor Member for Werribee District



### Business Newsletter



## EXPANDING CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT FOR VICTORIAN BUSINESSES

The Andrews Government has recently announced a **\$534 million Business Support Package** – the latest support measures on top of the **\$6 billion** in economic relief already invested since the pandemic began.

The latest measures include cash grants for struggling businesses, mental health support for business owners, relief for tourism operators who can no longer welcome Melbourne-based visitors for holidays, and tailored and targeted advice for businesses to adapt, stay afloat and then bounce back on the other side.

As part of the Package, the Government has expanded the Business Support Fund.

Businesses affected by the return to Stay at Home restrictions may be eligible for a one-off, \$5,000 grant under the **Business Support Fund - Expansion** program.

Applications for this program close on 19 August 2020.

For details on eligibility criteria and application processes, visit [business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund](https://business.vic.gov.au/support-for-your-business/grants-and-assistance/business-support-package/business-support-fund).

Additionally, the Business Support Package also includes the following key programs:

**Night-time Economy:** A \$30 million fund to support large restaurants, pubs and hospitality venues that are doing the heavy lifting to keep us all safe. These venues are also donating their unused produce to those in need.

**CBD Support:** A \$20 million fund to provide targeted support to businesses in Melbourne's CBD, which have been hit particularly hard by coronavirus as people right across the city are working from home.

**Business Advisory and Wellbeing Program:** A further \$36 million to assist small and medium businesses across Victoria with access to business mentoring and mental health advice to support their viability during the return of stage 3 restrictions.

**Regional Tourism Support:** A capped \$40 million fund to help regional accommodation businesses cover the cost of refunds for cancellations, as well as marketing campaigns to boost region to region visitation while metropolitan Melbourne is locked down, and for once restrictions ease.

Businesses will also benefit from an extended and expanded payroll tax deferral. Eligible businesses with payrolls up to \$10 million can defer their liabilities for the first half of the 2020/21 financial year.

For information about coronavirus business support, visit [business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-business-support](https://business.vic.gov.au/disputes-disasters-and-succession-planning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-business-support).

### Important Coronavirus Contacts

**Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)**  
For the most up-to-date information and advice  
[dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Hotline**  
If you believe you are showing symptoms  
**1800 675 398**

**For languages other than English**  
**131 450**

**Business Victoria Hotline**  
**13 22 15**

# HELPING LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## Payroll Tax Relief and Business Support Fund For Wyndham Businesses

We have helped tip millions of dollars back in to the state economy, by supporting local businesses to get through to the other side of the coronavirus crisis.

**351 businesses in Wyndham** have received full payroll tax refunds for the 2019/20 financial year, totalling \$9,979,906.60 in immediate Government support. The payroll tax refunds are part of the Victorian Government's **\$1.7 billion Economic Survival Package**, which is helping Victorian businesses and workers during the pandemic.

A total of **1021 businesses in Wyndham** have been paid a one-off \$10,000 Business Support Fund grant for operational costs such as salaries and utilities. The Business Support Fund provides payments for eligible businesses that have a wages bill below the payroll tax threshold.

## Working For Victoria In Wyndham

The Victorian Government will create an additional 3,000 jobs through its landmark **Working for Victoria** scheme – getting people left unemployed by the coronavirus pandemic back to work.

Wyndham City Council is one of 10 additional councils to sign up to the Victorian Government's \$500 million initiative and will offer **more than 170 positions**.

Wyndham will see workers in: hospitality, food preparation and delivery, sport, recreation and arts engagement, community services, engagement and outreach for vulnerable groups, cleaning, maintenance and improvements of civic assets and open spaces, engagement and communication, and OHS, HR and administrative support.

More than 8,500 Victorians have started in new roles since the fund launched in April, and more than 390 businesses have signed up to find staff through Working for Victoria.

For more information and to register for employment, go to [vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria](https://vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria).

## IMPROVING ACCESS TO LOCAL BUSINESS PRECINCTS

Major works are progressing in the Werribee District to remove the Cherry Street, Werribee Street, and Old Geelong Road level crossings, with all three expected to be removed in 2022.

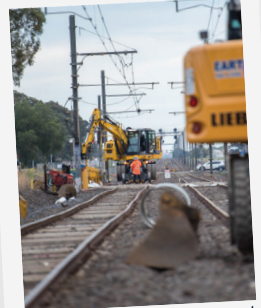
A new road bridge is being built over the rail line at **Cherry Street, Werribee**, to remove the level crossing. The bridge will create a new direct connection between Tarneit Road and Princes Highway, improving safety and reducing congestion for the busy Watton Street shopping precinct and local Werribee community.

The level crossing at **Old Geelong Road, Hoppers Crossing**, will be removed by building a new road bridge over the rail line east of the current crossing, directly connecting Princes Highway to Old Geelong Road.

The existing crossing will be closed to traffic, making way for improved community spaces and new landscaped areas. Locals will access Hoppers Crossing Station via a new pedestrian overpass. Located near important facilities such as hospitals, shopping centres and schools, the Old Geelong Road level crossing carries about 18,000 vehicles each day and links to the nearby Princes Highway and Princes Freeway.

The **Werribee Street, Werribee** level crossing will be removed by building a new rail bridge over Werribee Street. The rail bridge will allow for both freight and passenger trains and will be about one kilometre long. This will improve travel for the 20,000 vehicles that travel through this crossing daily, which is a key connection between Werribee and Wyndham Vale.

Works at the **Duncans Road Interchange** are also progressing, with the old bridge having been successfully demolished in June. The interchange is a key route for a number of growing suburbs, connecting people to the Werribee town centre and Wyndham Harbour. The upgrade, once complete, will make traffic flow better, so people can get to where they need to be sooner and safer.



Cherry Street Level Crossing Removal site

# Tim Pallas MP

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