

The table below summarises the key measures announced in the second stimulus package for businesses, their employees and other targeted areas, including earlier announcements.

COVID-19: Federal tax support measures announced 22 March 2020

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
BOOSTING CASH FLOW FOR EMPLOYERS - ENHANCED			
Employer cash support payment up to \$100k (increased from previously announced \$25k support on 12 March 2020)	Covers amounts withheld from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 (for monthly PAYG withholding lodgers it applies to amounts withheld from 1 March.	Aggregated turnover less than \$50m (generally based on prior year turnover)	The \$100k cash support cap is effectively made of two components. The first component is a doubling of the boosting cash-flow support from \$25k to \$50k for March to June PAYG withholdings. The second component is a cash support payment equal to the first component received and applied to activity statements from June to September.
Payment calculation method also accelerated from 50% to 100% of PAYG withholdings	However, to provide a similar treatment to quarterly lodgers the payment will be calculated based on 3 times the March PAYG withholding)	Now also includes Not-For-Profits and Charities that are employers	
Payments are tax free		Must have been an employer established before 12 March 2020 with an exception for Charities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)	
		Employers with nil PAYG withholding will have the minimum support	Although this is welcomed relief, if your business has a running account deficit, it is unlikely that you will see any positive cash stimulus. BCR Advisory can provide you with alternative options.

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
		payment increased from \$2k to \$20k	
GOVERNMENT LOAN SUBSIDY - SME GUARANTEE SCHEME			
To enhance the ability for SMEs to obtain loans from lending institutions, a 50 per cent Government guarantee will be provided to SMEs for new unsecured loans to be used for working capital. A 6 month loan repayment holiday to be provided	New loans from early April to 30 September 2020	<p>Turnover up to \$50m</p> <p>Limit of \$250k loan per borrower.</p> <p>Loans up to 3 years</p> <p>Loans will be based on lender's loan conditions but the Government will be expecting lenders to look past current conditions when making loan assessments</p>	It is expected that many cash strapped SMEs may consider this option. Of note, no loan security will be required but still subject to lender's lending requirements.
TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED BUSINESSES - DEALING WITH CREDITOR DEMANDS			
The current minimum threshold for creditors issuing a statutory demand under Corporations law will be temporarily increased from \$2,000 to \$20,000.	Government has announced this will apply for a 6 month period	No specific conditions noted	Affected businesses should start liaising with their creditors. BCR Advisory can provide assistance where required.

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
Timeframe for responses to a statutory demand will be extended temporarily from 21 days to 6 months			
TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR FINANCIAL DISTRESSED BUSINESSES - TRADING WHILST INSOLVENT			
Temporary relief from personal liability for insolvent trading will apply with respect to debts incurred in the ordinary course of the company's business	Government has announced this will apply for a 6 month period	Companies will still be liable for their debts	Our view is that the Safe Harbour regime should still be considered for a period of 12 months. This will allow business an additional 6 months to recover from the trauma.
TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR FINANCIALLY DISTRESSED BUSINESSES - BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS			
Threshold to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against a debtor will temporarily increase from \$5,000 to \$20,000	Government has announced this will apply for a 6 month period	No specific conditions noted	Distressed businesses should consult an advisor. BCR Advisory can provide assistance where required.
CERTAIN CORPORATIONS LAW REQUIREMENTS TO BE RELAXED			

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
Relief from specific Corporations Law obligations to be introduced including modifying certain obligations to enable compliance with legal requirements during the crisis	Six months from the date an instrument made by the Treasurer is made	Further details to be provided	The Government has announced that this could cover for example the requirement to hold certain AGMs as a result of social distancing measures.

COVID-19: Federal tax support measures announced 12 March 2020

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
ASSET WRITE OFFS			
100% write off for assets up to \$150k	From 12 March 2020 until 30 June 2020	Aggregated turnover less than \$500m	Asset must be first used or installed ready for use by 30 June 2020 to qualify. It is yet to be determined if cars are still subject to the cost limit for depreciation.
Upfront 50% deduction for “eligible assets” and existing depreciation rules applying to balance	Immediate effect for “eligible asset” purchases until 30 June 2021	Aggregated turnover less than \$500m	“Eligible assets” are new assets that can be depreciated for tax purposes, except second-hand assets. Therefore, this does not apply to capital works.

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
EMPLOYER CASH SUPPORT - SMALL TO MEDIUM ENTERPRISES			
50% of an apprentice or trainee's wage over a 9 month period	Effective from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020	For businesses with less than 20 full time staff who retain an apprentice or trainee. The apprentice/trainee must have been in training as at 1 March 2020.	Where a small business is not able to retain an apprentice, the subsidy will still be available to a new employer of that apprentice.

Further details can be found here:

- [Australian Government: Support for businesses](#)
- [Australian Government: Economic response to the Coronavirus](#)
- [Australian Tax Office: Support for large business impacted by COVID-19](#)

New South Wales

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
PAYROLL TAX:			
Three month waiver of payroll tax	Immediate to 30 June 2020	Payrolls up to \$10m	Businesses will effectively receive a 25% reduction in their 2019-2020 payroll tax liability

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
Bring forward of higher payroll tax threshold limit from \$900k to \$1m	From 1 July 2020	n/a	This measure has been brought forward from the later intended start date of 1 July 2021
STATE FEES AND CHARGES:			
Waiver of various State fees and charges	Further details to be provided	Further details to be provided but to be targeted at small businesses.	Intended to cover bars, cafes, restaurants and trade persons
PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE:			
\$250m to employ additional cleaners of public infrastructure	Further details to be provided	Further details to be provided	This will cover additional cleaning support for transport infrastructure, schools and public buildings
Over \$250m to bring forward maintenance of public assets	Further details to be provided	Further details to be provided	This is to cover social housing and crown land fencing
\$500m to bring forward capital works and maintenance	Further details to be provided	Further details to be provided	

Further details can be found here:

- [NSW Government: \\$2.3 billion health boost and economic stimulus](#)

Queensland

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
ASSISTANCE TO AFFECTED INDUSTRIES:			
\$27.25m package for tourism and seafood businesses	Further details to be provided	Must be in specific industries or regions	
\$500M LOAN FACILITY:			
Interest free loan facility for first 12 months	Further details to be provided	Loans up to \$250k	Intended to assist businesses to retain staff
PAYROLL TAX:			
Payroll tax deferral extended from SMEs to all businesses	Further details to be provided	Applies to all businesses impacted by COVID-19	Eligible businesses in Queensland will not need to pay payroll tax until 3 August 2020 which includes the February 2020 payroll tax return

Further details can be found here:

- [Queensland Government: \\$27.25 million Coronavirus aid package](#)
- [Queensland Government: Palaszczuk Government offers \\$500m in loans to support workers in businesses affected by Coronavirus](#)

Western Australia

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
BUSINESS GRANTS:			
One-off grant up to \$17,500 to businesses who pay wages between \$1m and \$4m	Grants to be paid from 1 July 2020	Based on annual Australian taxable wages between \$1m and \$4m	For employers grouped for payroll tax only a single grant will be paid to the designated group employer
PAYROLL TAX:			
Payroll tax deferral offered to affected businesses by the coronavirus	Covers the 2019-20 monthly payroll tax payments until 21 July 2020	Australian taxable wages do not exceed \$7.5m and business has been affected by the coronavirus	The deferral mechanism is to be confirmed
Increase in payroll tax threshold to \$1m brought forward by 6 months	Effective from 1 July 2020		Current payroll tax threshold is \$950k
HOUSEHOLD RATES AND CHARGES FREEZE:			
Planned increases to electricity, water, motor vehicle registration, ESL and public transport will not go ahead	Until at least 1 July 2021	N/A	Intended to keep household costs at a manageable level
WELFARE SUPPORT:			
The Energy Assistance Payment will double to \$600	Until 30 June 2021	Must be an eligible concession card holder	Aimed to ease the financial burden for vulnerable citizens

Further details can be found here:

- [WA Government: COVID-19 payroll tax relief](#)
- [WA Government: COVID-19 economic response – relief for businesses and households](#)

South Australia

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT:			
A total of \$350m to fund various infrastructure upgrades to roads, hospitals, tourism and increased funding for the Economic and Business Growth Fund	Further details to be provided	Projects must be able to be started within a short period of time. Projects must also be labour intensive and/or require significant purchasing of local materials, services and supplies	

Further details can be found here:

- [SA Government: Unprecedented response and economic stimulus to drive SA jobs, economy in wake of bushfires, Coronavirus](#)

Tasmania

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
INTEREST FREE LOANS:			
\$20m will be allocated to providing loans to small business and \$50m will be	Further details to be provided	Small businesses with less than \$5m turnover in the hospitality,	

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
allocated to providing loans to local government. The loans will be interest free for three years		tourism, seafood and export sectors, as well as local governments	
PAYROLL TAX:			
Four month waiver of payroll tax	Immediate to 30 June 2020	Hospitality, tourism and seafood businesses	Other businesses may apply for this concession, but only if they have less than \$5m payroll and have been impacted by the virus

Further details can be found here:

- [Tasmanian Government: Tasmanian support and stimulus package](#)

Northern Territory

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
BUSINESS SUPPORT:			
Eligible businesses will receive a one-off payment of \$10,000. If a business puts in \$10,000 of their own money, then the government will grant another \$10,000. \$20m has been allocated for this package.	Immediate	Must use money to improve a business in the Territory. The purchases must be made from another Territory business.	

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\$5m has been allocated to help businesses with adjusting to the conditions caused by the virus.	Immediate	All businesses can apply, but the hospitality sector will have first priority. Further details to come.	
\$5m has been allocated to grant money for repairs, renovations and upgrades. The grant is up to \$50,000.	Immediate	Must be an incorporated not-for-profit or a community organisation. If the organisation puts in their own money, it will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$50,000.	The grant and dollar-matched grant can be added together for a total grant of up to \$100,000.
FREEZING OF GOVERNMENT CHARGES:			
All government fees and charges will be frozen.	Until 1 July 2021	N/A	This includes electricity, water and car registration.
HOME IMPROVEMENT:			
\$30m of grants will be provided to Territory homeowners and landlords for home improvement.	Immediate	If the owner contributes \$1,000 they will receive a \$4,000 grant, if the owner contributes \$2,000 they will receive a \$6,000 grant.	

Further details can be found here:

- [NT Government: The Territory's jobs rescue and recovery plan](#)

Australian Capital Territory

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
PAYROLL TAX WAIVER FOR 6 MONTHS			
Businesses in the hospitality, creative arts and entertainment industries.	<p>Covers waiver of payroll tax from April to September 2020</p> <p>For monthly lodgers, first credit will be applied to the April 2020 liability.</p> <p>For annual lodgers, the credit will be applied at the end of the 2019-2020 financial year</p>	<p>Business must be in the hospitality (cafes, pubs, hotels, clubs and restaurants), creative arts or entertainment industries.</p> <p>Businesses will need to apply online at the ACT Revenue Office website at www.revenue.act.gov.au</p>	This should be a priority for all ACT businesses that qualify. The online application page is yet to be created at the time of writing.
PAYROLL TAX DEFERRAL			
SME businesses can defer their 2020-21 payroll tax, interest free until 1 July 2022	<p>For monthly lodgers, deferral can be applied to the April 2020 liability.</p> <p>For annual lodgers, deferral can be made to the full 2020-21 liability usually payable in July 2021</p>	<p>For grouped Australia wide payrolls up to \$10m</p> <p>Businesses will need to apply online at the ACT Revenue Office website at www.revenue.act.gov.au</p>	This should be a priority for all ACT businesses that qualify. The online application page is yet to be created at the time of writing.
COMMERCIAL GENERAL RATES REBATE			
For commercial owners of property a rebate for fixed rates of \$2,622	The credit will be applied to the 2019-20 general rates, in fourth quarter	Commercial properties with an average unimproved land value (AUV) of less than \$2 million	The rebate will be automatically applied.

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ELECTRICITY REBATES			
Small business owners with electricity usage may qualify for rebates of \$750	From June or July 2020 depending on the issue of the next electricity bill	Applies only to business they use less than 100 megawatts per year	The rebate will be automatically applied.
RIDESHARE AND TAXI VEHICLE LICENCE FEES			
Licence fees will be waived for 12 months for rideshare operators.	From 1 April 2020	N/A	Fees will be waived automatically.
Waiver of government leased taxi plate fees			Cases where licences have already been prepaid 12 months in advance, an additional 12 months credit will be added to the licence at the next due date.
FOOD BUSINESS REGISTRATION, OUTDOOR DINING AND LIQUOR LICENCE FEES			
12 month waiver of food business registration and on-licence liquor fees for licensed venues	From 1 April 2020	Waiver only applies to licensed venues	Cases where food business registration has been prepaid for more than one year in advance, an additional 12 months will be added to the licence.

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Outdoor licence fees to be waived	For 2020-21	Waiver only applies to licensed venues	Cases where food business registration has been prepaid for more than one year in advance, an additional 12 months will be added to the licence.
SUPPORT TO CLUBS			
Additional payment of \$1.5 million and freeing up the existing \$1.8 million in the Clubs Diversification Fund	Details to be provided	Details to be provided	This is targeted at assisting clubs to retain their employees at existing award rates.
INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING			
\$20 million to be immediately spent on infrastructure projects	Will have a focus on works that can start immediately	Spending for maintenance on local schools, roads, and public transport	This is targeted at keeping locals employed in public works.
FUNDING FOR ARTS SECTOR \$500K			
Funding for artists of up to \$10,000 to support arts development and the sustainability of arts practice over the next six to nine months through a \$500,000 grants program	Grant applications will open on 30 March 2020 and close at 5pm 17 April at 5pm. Announcements on successful recipients will be made around 1 May 2020	Application must be made	Those in the arts sector should start their applications immediately.

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
SUPPORT FOR HOUSEHOLDS AND WELFARE AND OTHER AREAS			
<p>Various other support to be provided to households, targeted welfare groups and other areas. See link below for further details</p> <p>Further details can be found here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT Government: Public health emergency in the ACT 			

Victoria

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
PAYROLL TAX REFUNDS			
Full payroll tax refunds for the 2019-20 financial year.	Immediate to 30 June 2020	Immediate to 30 June 2020 For small and medium businesses with payroll of less than \$3 million.	This assistance is a refund, not a loan.
PAYROLL TAX DEFERRAL			

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
Payroll tax deferral for the first three months of the 2020/21 financial year.	1 July 2020	Payments can be deferred until 1 January 2021.	
COMMERCIAL TENANTS RENT RELIEF			
Commercial tenants rent relief - Commercial tenants in Government buildings can apply for rent relief.	More details to come.	More details to come.	Private landlords are also being encouraged to undertake this measure.
2020 LAND TAX PAYMENTS			
2020 land tax payments will be deferred for eligible small businesses.	More details to come.	More details to come.	
GOVERNMENT SUPPLIER INVOICE PAYMENTS			
Government supplier invoices will be paid within five business days.	More details to come.	More details to come.	The private sector is urged to do the same, where possible.
LIQUOR LICENSE FEES			
All liquor license fees will be waived for 2020.	More details to come.	More details to come.	This measure is for affected venues and small businesses.
BUSINESS SUPPORT FUND			

	EFFECTIVE FROM	CONDITIONS	BCR ADVISORY COMMENT
A \$500 million Business Support Fund will be established.	More details to come.	More details to come.	This fund will support the hardest hit sectors including hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and entertainment, and retail.
WORKING FOR VICTORIA FUND			
A \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund will be established.	More details to come.	More details to come.	This fund will help workers who have lost their jobs find new opportunities, including work cleaning infrastructure or delivering food.