

City of Ballarat's Update on COVID-19

The COVID-19 emergency is an unprecedented event in recent history. To protect the health of residents and staff, the City of Ballarat has instigated its Response and Recovery Pandemic 2020 Plan for its staff, ratepayers, residents and the broader community.

Evidence from around the world has shown that pre-emptive measures are extremely effective in containing the spread of the disease.

NOTE: This is an extremely fluid situation and events are changing daily.

All information listed below is correct as at 2.30pm, Monday 23 March but is subject to change. Please keep up-to-date by visiting ballarat.vic.gov.au

The City of Ballarat has a key role to play in all emergency management situations affecting the municipality.

The City of Ballarat's primary focus for the next six months is to ensure that we have the best chance of avoiding the major impacts of COVID-19.

Further modifications to City of Ballarat operations

On 22 March, Premier Daniel Andrews announced that all non-essential activity including schools and businesses across Victoria will be shut down by Tuesday 24 March to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Following the Premier's announcement, City of Ballarat's Executive Leadership Team and Mayor met to discuss what this announcement means for our organisation in the weeks and months ahead.

Our community and our staff's health and wellbeing remain our key priority during this time.

Council facilities and services update

Ballarat residents are being assured that they still have access to a number of regular Council services following the City of Ballarat's decision to activate its Recovery Pandemic 2020 Plan in the wake of COVID-19.

The following City of Ballarat's essential services will be maintained:

- Waste Collection, including the Gillies Street Transfer Station
- Street cleaning
- In-home support

- Maternal and Child Health
- Ballarat Animal Shelter
- Rapid Response (infrastructure and maintenance)
- Council-run childcare centres – with priority given to essential service workers
- Immunisation remains operational

Be Kind Ballarat

The City of Ballarat's Be Kind Ballarat campaign has provided a significant boost to our businesses. The introduction of free parking between 11am and 3pm has proven very popular and allowed residents and visitors greater access to our shops and retail outlets.

The City of Ballarat will continue this campaign to assist Ballarat businesses through the very challenging times ahead.

The Communications and Marketing team has created a Facebook frame around the Be Kind Ballarat campaign. We encourage you all to share and use it on your own profiles following this [link](#)

Business Resources

The City of Ballarat has established an Economic Response Package to assist the growing number of local businesses affected by the current situation. Initial measures to roll out as part of an Economic Response Package include:

- An automatic extension of some permits, registrations and licences for a six-month period
- Consideration of bringing forward a new range of minor capital works projects to support local contractors and supply chains

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- Streamlining planning permit assessment processes including an accelerated process for dealing with further information requests and further support for the online submissions system
- Additional information for businesses around what they can do to modify their usual practices in these changed circumstances. As an example, additional guidance is being provided to businesses with outdoor dining to expand their footprint to support social distancing.

Special Council Meeting – CEO Delegation Modified – 23 March 2020

In accordance with Section 84 of the Local Government Act 1989, Mayor Cr Ben Taylor called a Special Meeting of the Council of the City of Ballarat at 1.00pm, Monday 23 March 2020 in the Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat.

At the Special Council Meeting, Ballarat City Council modified the delegation to allow the person holding the position of CEO to make decisions up to the financial level of \$5 million dollars in the instance that Council or Contracts Special Committee are unable to meet.

This allows the organisation to continue to operate and enable the delivery of essential services.

A review of the delegation will be completed when the emergency event has ceased.

Resolution

In the exercise of the powers conferred by s 98(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) and the other legislation referred to in the attached instrument of delegation, Ballarat City Council resolves that:

1. There be delegated to the person holding the position, acting in or performing the duties of Chief Executive Officer the powers, duties and functions set out in the attached *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that Instrument.
2. The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument.
3. On the coming into force of the instrument all previous delegations to the Chief Executive Officer are revoked.
4. The duties and functions set out in the instrument must be performed, and the powers set out in the instruments must be executed, in accordance with any guidelines or policies of Council that it may from time to time adopt.
5. It is noted that the instrument includes a power of delegation to members of Council staff, in accordance with s 98(3) of the Act.
6. The Chief Executive Officer prepare a procedure that outlines notification process to Council prior to the exercising of the delegation outlined in item 4.1 of the *Instrument of Delegation to the Chief Executive Officer*
7. A review of the delegation be completed as soon as the emergency event has ceased.