

## 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 3.30pm, Tuesday 31 March but is subject to change. Please keep up-to-date by visiting [ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://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.

### **Gatherings restricted to two people**

On Monday, the Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews announced all indoor and outdoor gatherings are now restricted to two people (except for members of your immediate household and for work or education). This followed a decision by National Cabinet on Sunday.

These restrictions are now being enforced in Victoria, with on-the-spot fines of \$1,652 for individuals and \$9,913 for businesses issued to those who breach the restrictions.

This applies to indoor and outdoor gatherings and includes private properties.

This means you shouldn't be walking Lake Wendouree in groups of three or more. It means you shouldn't be getting takeaway coffee in groups of three or more. It means you shouldn't be visiting your friends to socialise.

Yes, you can still go outside for food, medical care, exercise, work or education (when it cannot be done from home), but every social distancing precaution must be taken.

However, the best thing everyone can do right now is to stay at home!

### **The National Cabinet's strong guidance to all Australians is to stay home unless:**

- shopping for what you need – food and necessary supplies
- medical or health care needs, including compassionate requirements
- exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements (no more than two people in a group)
- work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.

### **Important adoption and Ballarat Animal Shelter update**

As of today (31 March 2020), the Ballarat Animal Shelter will close to the public and the adoption of animals will cease until further notice.

The City of Ballarat's pound services – the collection and release of stray pets – will still operate. Please call 5334 2075 to make arrangements to collect your pet.

If you find a lost cat or dog call the City of Ballarat's Customer Service team on 5320 5500 to request assistance from an Animal Ranger.

We are pleased that so many animals have been adopted over the past few weeks and are now in their new homes. We are very thankful for your ongoing support of the shelter and our resident animals. Our team will continue to work with the animals in our care.

Keep an eye out at the Ballarat Animal Shelter Facebook page for more information as it becomes available.

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### Waste collection update

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

However, the COVID-19 situation is fluid, and Waste Services are subject to any further restrictions imposed by state and federal governments.

#### Kerbside collection

All three kerbside collection bin services will continue to existing service schedules.

Please note usual waste collection times may differ, so Council is asking everyone to be patient.

To report a missed bin, contact the City of Ballarat service centre on 5320 5500.

As many people will be in self-isolation at home it's critical that bins are correctly placed on the kerbside.

#### Ballarat Transfer Station

Ballarat Transfer Station will remain open on weekdays (8am – 4pm) and weekends (10am – 4pm), but with some important changes.

The Transfer Station is only accepting vouchers from residents and card-based payment.

In compliance with the public gathering requirements, only two people will be allowed into the facility at any time. Traffic management practices may change throughout the day to manage peaks in visitation.

Please remain patient and pay attention to onsite staff at all times.

### Pass on Glass drop-off sites

Pass on Glass drop-off sites will remain open, however, the City of Ballarat is no longer delivering Pass on Glass crates.

We ask residents not to place glass in their yellow-lidded recycle bins but to continue to access the Pass on Glass drop-off sites located at:

- Transfer Station, 119 Gillies Street South, Alfredton
- Coltman Plaza Shopping Centre car park
- Midvale Shopping Centre, 2/1174 Geelong Road, Mount Clear
- Buninyong Recreation Reserve, Buninyong
- Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club, Rubicon Street entrance
- Miners Rest General Store
- Stockland Wendouree, near MyCar service centre