



Destination
North Coast NSW

North Coast News & Views No.66

Coronavirus Impact Survey

Three weeks ago Destination North Coast launched the Coronavirus Impact Survey to collect data on the effects of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on your business.

If you haven't already, please spare 2 minutes complete this [Coronavirus Impact Survey](#)? The data will be provided to each region to assess the economic impacts and shared with Destination NSW and Tourism Australia.

One survey only per business please.

Stay At Home This Easter

Whilst we wish you a lovely and safe Easter break, we must also strongly reiterate the very clear message from the NSW State Government to please **STAY AT HOME** this Easter and help stop the spread of Coronavirus.

[Byron](#) and [Ballina](#) Councils have similarly shared strong stay at home messages.



New Government Agency - Resilience NSW

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced the creation of a new Government agency, Resilience NSW, which will drive a world-leading disaster preparedness and recovery approach for the local community. Read full [Media Release](#).

Federal Government JobKeeper Stimulus Package

As was mentioned last week, the Australian Government announced a further [\\$130 billion will be provided as a wage subsidy](#) to around 6 million workers as a subsidy to businesses.

There's a series of fact sheets on the JobKeeper Payment to assist businesses, sole traders and employees understand the process and benefits that are available. For further information visit the [Treasury website](#), and download the fact sheets for:

- Employers
- Employees
- Frequently Asked Questions

If you think this might apply to your business and employees, register your interest on the [Australian Tax Office website](#) and updates will be provided.

\$10,000 Grants To Provide Fast Relief For NSW Small Businesses

Thousands of small businesses across NSW struggling to cope with the COVID-19 shutdown will receive grants of up to \$10,000 under a new assistance scheme announced last Friday by Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Treasurer Dominic Perrottet and Minister for Finance and Small Business Damien Tudehope.

The NSW Government will put \$750 million into the Small Business Support Fund as the centrepiece of a third wave of support measures to keep small businesses afloat.

Many local cafes, restaurants, corner shops and small accommodation providers will be eligible to apply.

Read full [Media Release](#) here. Applications will be available from April 17th with more information at [Service NSW](#).

This latest move follows two assistance packages from NSW in the past fortnight, whose combined value far exceeds the support offered by any other state.

ACCC Releases Guidelines On Cancellations And Refunds For Small Business

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission ('ACCC') has issued [guidance to assist small businesses](#) to understand their rights and obligations when issuing refunds in response to the coronavirus under the Australian Consumer Law.

The guide outlines small business rights and obligations relating to issues such as cancelled functions and events, pricing of goods and services, and charging subscription and membership fees when the business is not operating.

Small business can contact the ACCC via their [online form](#).

Other COVID-19 Resource & Information Sources

The Australian Government Health Department is the definitive source of [health advice](#) on Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Australian Government launched an [official app](#) on Sunday 29 March which includes a symptom checker, an isolation register, news and media, resources and advice.

[Australian Government](#) website for information and support.

[Australian Treasury](#) includes the economic response to Coronavirus with support for individuals, households and businesses.

[Australian Tourism Export Council](#) provides QUICK Links to relevant information and resources.

[Tourism Australia](#) is maintaining information specific to COVID-19 and the impacts for travellers.

[Destination NSW](#) provides information for industry.

[Business Australia](#) provides many helpful articles and information for businesses.

NSW Government Coronavirus Hotline For Business. **Phone - 13 77 88.**

The Federal Government has established an advice hotline for small and medium-sized businesses. **Phone - 13 28 46.**

Local Government Support & Local Initiatives

Local councils, business chambers and enterprising local groups and individuals are implementing activities to offset some of the negative impacts of Coronavirus...

Coffs Harbour City Council is implementing a [Local Business Support Plan](#) to help alleviate the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic. The Coffs Harbour Chamber of Commerce have created a website [Shop Coffs Coast](#) to support businesses in the region

help survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bellingen Council have launched their [Pandemic Call Centre](#) to support local businesses navigate the challenges of the Coronavirus crisis . A different level of support aimed at helping parents keep the kids entertained whilst at home is the [Coffs Coast Blog](#).

In Kempsey the local [Macleay Argus](#) is asking local businesses to register how customers can continue to access goods and services whilst Kempsey Shire Council is also suggesting businesses register on [Shop Local Online](#).

Nambucca Valley Council is implementing measures to support small local businesses to provide some financial relief to those businesses and activities which have been the subject of a public health order to close.

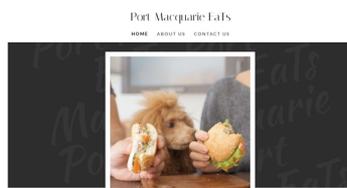
On the MidCoast, residents are encouraged to support local businesses with a new [Be Kind To Barrington Coast Businesses](#) Directory.

The Tweed Council are helping Tweed residents and businesses with a [COVID-19 Care Package](#). Meanwhile, the Tweed Tourism Company is supporting local businesses through their [Love The Tweed](#) marketing activity encouraging residence to buy local.

Port Macquarie Hastings Council have been reviewing all their fees and charges with plans to introduce numerous relief measures for residents and business owners.

Ballina Council has also announced a [Business Support Package](#) which includes financial relief across a range of rent, fees and charges.

Find out how to [Support Lismore Businesses](#) listed online and via the [Support Local Support Lismore](#) Facebook group providing information and access to local businesses that remain open.



Armchair Travel – Inspiring Your Customers

Tourism Australia have launched a new video, [With Love from Aus](#) playing on their Matesong campaign but speaking to the need to stay home (but connected) and keeping the dream of travel to and within Australia alive.

[Intrepid Travel](#) has also thought to encourage the dream and inspire their customers to think of times ahead with this video. Small Group adventure tour operator [G Adventures](#) has taken a similar step.

Whilst budgets certainly differ to these couple of examples, they may provide the inspiration for keeping your own business alive via social media, photo and/or video posts...your loyal customers stuck at home self-distancing will surely thank you for brightening their day.

Koala Release – Port Macquarie Hastings

In recent days, the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital released back to their original habitat, 26 koalas rescued during the devastating fires of late last year.

Sue Ashton, President of Port Macquarie Koala Hospital says “This is a heart-warming day for us – to be able to release so many of our koalas back to their original habitats, even to their original tree in some cases – makes us very happy. Anwen was our first ever female koala to be admitted during the bushfires and her recovery has been extraordinary. It marks a proud moment for Australia; to see our Koala population and habitat, starting to recover from what was such a devastating time.”

This [great and heart-warming news story](#) is very welcomed and serves as a reminder that life goes on even whilst we all hunker down in self-isolation. Well done to the staff and volunteers at the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital and thank you for your amazing commitment and care of these special species.



Industry Development & Other Opportunities

TAFE NSW – Fee-free Short Courses

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TAFE NSW, in conjunction with the NSW Government, is offering a number of [fee-free short courses](#) that can be completed in just days or weeks, offering practical skills and experiences across a range of industries.

The 21 short courses include:

- eMarketing for Small Business
- Engaging Customers Using Social Media
- Websites for Small Businesses
- Writing and Presentation Skills

If you're considering a new direction, why not explore some of the fee-free* short courses as well as learn more about Mature Age Scholarships, Destination Australia Scholarships and Women in Business program, among many others.

Travel Daily *News on the Fly* is a new weekly podcast where we discuss the big issues. It's live RIGHT NOW on iTunes, Spotify and anywhere else you like to get your podcasts.

Apple users can listen and subscribe by [CLICKING HERE](#)

To hear the first episode on Spotify [CLICK HERE](#)
And you can also check it out directly on online by [CLICKING HERE](#).



Funding And Other Opportunities

[Facebook Small Business Grants](#)

Facebook is offering grants and ad credits to help businesses during this challenging time.

[Wildlife and Habitat Bushfire Recovery Program](#)

Supports the immediate survival and long-term recovery and resilience for fire-affected Australian animals, plants, ecological communities and other natural assets and their cultural values for Indigenous Australians. Closes 22 Apr 2020.

[WIRES Landcare Wildlife Relief & Recovery Grants](#)

Supports networks and groups with additional support to coordinate and fund projects to maximise the impact of their contribution to recovery efforts and strengthen outcomes for wildlife. Closes 30 Apr 2020.

[Energy Efficient Communities Program - Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020](#)

Supporting community groups with grants up to \$12,500 for energy efficient equipment, energy generation and storage systems, and energy audits through the Energy Efficient Communities Program - Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants 2020. Closes 18 May 2020.

[Australia Council Announces New Resilience Fund For Arts](#)

A new \$5 million Resilience Fund for artists and arts organisations opened last week offering welcome support to the nation's arts and cultural sector, which has been hard hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

The 2020 Resilience Fund includes three streams:

- Survive - small grants for individuals, groups and organisations to offset or recoup financial losses due to cancelled activity
- Adapt - grants for individuals, groups and organisations to adapt their practice and explore new operating models
- Create - grants for individuals, groups and organisations to continue to create artistic work and develop creative responses in a time of disruption

Organisations that currently receive multi-year funding from the Australia Council are not eligible to apply. Artists and organisations that have existing agreements with the Australia Council are encouraged to contact their contract manager to discuss flexible support options at this time.

For more information visit the [Australia Council website](#).

CREATE Grants

Offers opportunities for mid-career and established creative writers and visual artists to create and develop new work. The grants provide a living allowance to a writer or a visual artist to write or create a new work for publication or exhibition.

North Coast News & Product Innovation

Vision Walks Now Offers Virtual Tours!

Byron Bay tour operator Vision Walks, famous for its night vision walks, has just launched virtual tours on YouTube. The first one takes you through natural koala habitat and gives you an insight into the sustainable operations of this business.

Dolphin Marine Conservation Park, Coffs Harbour are doing some ['Live' Facebook Events](#) and sharing via their channels so as to keep their brand alive during the current shutdown.

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