

WALGA Video re COVID – 19 Pandemic – 30 April 2020

Hello, my name is Logan Howlett, the Mayor of the City of Cockburn.

I am one of the three State Councillors representing the South Metropolitan Zone.

As we continue the recovery journey out of the COVID – 19 pandemic and start to implement phase 2 of the roadmap the focus has turned to how we as local governments support the small business sector.

There are over 30,000 small businesses in the South Metropolitan Zone covered by our six councils employing thousands of people.

Some have continued to operate given their goods and service delivery and their ability to adapt.

However the majority have been closed throughout the pandemic and has quoted from one owner – one day we were there operating as normal; the next day it was if we had fallen off a cliff.

The six councils in the south metropolitan zone have launched various programs to support small business getting up and running including:

- Establishing dedicated websites containing information to guide small business through the process of re-opening their business and to enable them to register that they are 'open for business';
- Assisting with the process of putting in place the hygiene and other health requirements that vary from one business type to another;
- Registering for the supply of social distancing stickers, posters and other information products;
- Providing grants for those impacted by the COVID – 19 pandemic;
- Encouraging the concept of 'Buy Local across the community and the use of local tradies;
- Paying creditors within 15 days; and a host of other initiatives.

It has been pleasing to see how many small businesses have adapted during this crisis from:

- Drive –through services;
- Delivery boxes of food and other goodies;
- Online yoga and fitness classes;
- Take home meals;

We know that as the journey to recovery continues there will be many lessons learnt and opportunities to adapt to a 'new world', a new way of doing business; a new way of engaging across the community; a new way to celebrate our successes; and other things we are yet to discover.

THE WALGA President and CEO continue to issue specific COVID – 19 Updates and webinars are held each Friday to keep the sector informed.

These are also available on the WALGA website to share with elected members and others.

As we are in the midst of National Volunteer Week it is an opportune time to thank the thousands of volunteers across our great nation for the passion and commitment they bring to their chosen endeavour.

And as community leaders:

STAY SAFE; STAY WELL and STAY FOCUSED ON THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Thank you.