31 March 2020

**Financial help for those facing hardship during COVID-19 pandemic**

The City of Cockburn is providing residents, community groups and businesses facing hardship with a range of financial assistance measures, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Residents and community groups**

* The deferment of rate payments for three months or the ability to enter into a more generous payment arrangement
* Removal of penalty interest and other charges on rates until 30 June
* Defer repayments of existing debts for three months for community based debtors
* More affordable payment options for Naval Base shack lessees
* Full refund on all cancelled bookings and events at City facilities
* Sporting Clubs COVID Support Package - Stage 1: assistance paying ongoing costs to ensure clubs remain financially viable
* Delay on final notices and referrals to Fines Enforcement Registry for issued infringements until 30 June, and
* A more lenient approach from the City with infringements. Cautions will be issued where appropriate.

**Business**

* The deferment of rate payments for three months or the ability to enter into a more generous payment arrangement
* Compassionate payment options for commercial based debtors
* The ability for tenants of City owned or controlled premises to suspend/defer up to 100 per cent of their rent payments (not including outgoings) for an initial three month period to 30 June, and
* Paying suppliers 15 days from the date of invoice.

**Your rates in 2020/21**
The City is preparing the draft Municipal budget, 2020/21 for Council consideration and has requested the Local Government Minister defer the Gross Rental Value (GRV) revaluation scheduled to apply for 2020/21 to **ensure a zero rate increase** for all properties.

Proposed budget measures to be considered by Council at the 9 April Ordinary Council Meeting include:

1. Removing interest and other fees and charges on rates, and
2. Removing the mandatory waste service levy from commercial/industrial properties not currently utilising the City’s service.

ENDS

For more information contact:
Media and Communications Officer
City of Cockburn
T: 08 9411 3551
E: media@cockburn.wa.gov.au