

Government Support for Queensland Businesses Impacted by Coronavirus

MARCH ISSUE

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The Queensland government has recently announced some initiatives for businesses impacted by the effect of COVID-19 (coronavirus). Two key announcements are:

1. Deferred payroll tax payments
2. Immediate Industry Recovery Package

Deferred payroll Tax payments

Small and medium sized Queensland businesses impacted by the coronavirus outbreak will be able to defer their payroll tax payments for six months.

This relief is available to eligible businesses with an annual wage bill of up to \$6.5 m. Each business must self-assess whether their economic indicators like turnover, profit, bookings or contracts have been impacted by business conditions associated with the coronavirus. In making this comparison it's important to consider comparative periods e.g. January to March 2020 compared with January to March 2019. Doing this will clearly evidence the impact the coronavirus outbreak has had on your business.

The deferred lodgement and payment dates are as follows:

Return Period	Normal Due Date	Deferred due date
February	9 March 2020	3 August 2020
March	7 April 2020	3 August 2020
January-March quarter	7 April 2020	3 August 2020
April	7 May 2020	3 August 2020
May	8 June 2020	3 August 2020
2019-20 annual	21 July 2020	3 August 2020

For assistance applying for the payroll tax deferral please contact our office.

Immediate Industry Recovery Package

The QLD Government has recognised the most immediate impact of the coronavirus has been on the tourism, export and education sectors, and has introduced the Immediate Industry Recovery Package.

Valued at \$27.25 million, it is aimed at assisting businesses with resilience and recovery strategies to deal with and mitigate impacts of COVID-19 (coronavirus). The aim of this package is to help sustain jobs and businesses whilst work continues to contain the coronavirus.

Support will be available to various sectors as follows:

Small Businesses & Exporters:

Support for small businesses and exporters will come in the form of a suite of initiatives including financial workshops in partnership with local bodies, business mentoring and a small business hotline - 1300 654 687.



It has also announced a \$1.1m 'Market Ready' initiative which aims to provide tailored export advice to SMEs on leveraging opportunities in the Chinese online market, market intelligence and expert advice for exporters entering new markets and host export forums to provide practical advice.

Further information can be accessed from www.tiq.qld.gov.au/market-ready.

Fishing Industry:

Market diversification and resilience grants will be available to support activities for the fishing industry including:

- assistance with adopting to possible new market requirements.
- extending the catch area for tropical rock lobster for three months from late February to reduce operating costs for quota holders and enable alternative markets to be developed.
- temporarily waiving fishing boat licence fees and quota fees for tropical rock lobster and coral trout.

Tourism operators and hospitality providers:

Relief for certain fees and charges will be provided to tourism operators impacted. These include:

- waiving application fees for some variations to liquor licences.
- waiving registration fees for Inbound Tour Operators.
- waiving of Daily Fees for Commercial Activity Agreements and Permits.
- rebates on Marina Charges and Passenger Levies.
- deferral of Tourism Lease Rent Payments.

Student support and counselling:

An additional \$1 million will be available to increase student support services across Queensland to help impacted students returning to study.

Further information regarding the support packages is located on the Queensland Government website: <https://www.qld.gov.au/about/industry-recovery>.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our office:

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