

MEDIA STATEMENT



7 July 2020

2020/21 BUDGET: COUNCIL ENDORSES COVID-19 FINANCIAL RELIEF PACKAGE

Cassowary Coast Regional Council today announced its second relief package in response to COVID-19, geared toward local businesses and clubs who are doing it tough due to the pandemic restriction period.

The \$400,000 COVID-19 Financial Relief Package is additional to Council's existing COVID-19 Rates Financial Hardship policy, and offers discounts on Council fees and charges to December 2020 including sewerage pedestal charges, annual permits and food licenses.

Further to the discounted fees and charges, Council will provide greenwaste mulch loading fees at Transfer Stations for no cost for the entire year.

Local businesses who cater to tourists are offered additional relief with annual membership to Cassowary Coast Visitor Information Centres also waived.

In addition to the Financial Relief Package, the budget also includes a suite of savings measures to the ratepayer worth \$1.78 million including a new council structure, depreciation savings from asset rationalisation, and business efficiency savings.

Nolan said in addition to the COVID-19 Financial Relief Package, there will be an extension of the discount period applied to the coming rate period to 60 days (from 30), however in order to supplement the expense incurred by the Relief Package the prompt payment discount will be brought down to 10% (from 15%).

'Our data shows that 22% of rate payers are unable to pay on time, this package is designed to provide relief where it counts. It targets relief measures to ensure those who need it most receive it,'

'We are pleased to extend the payment terms of rates, however in order to achieve that we've had to reduce the discount. A 10% discount is still much more than other North Queensland Councils including Hinchinbrook, Douglas and Cairns who offer no discount,' he said.

Applications for the COVID-19 Financial Relief Package are now open via Council's website, www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au.

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CCRC Financial relief Package discounted fees and charges (\$400,000)

CCRC COVID-19 Financial Relief Package	
Fee Group	Discount
F&C - VIC Annual Membership Fee	100%
F&C - Greenwaste Mulch Loading Fee	100%
Sewerage - Pedestal Charges	31/12/2020
F&C - Annual & Seasonal Charges	50%
F&C - Commercial/Recreation Activities Annual Permits	50%
F&C - Food Licences	50%
F&C - Liquid Waste Contractor Permit Fee	50%
F&C - Prescribed Activities Annual Permits	50%
F&C - Refund/Transfer fees - per assessment	31/12/2020
60 day discount period - Rates - interest foregone	One Rating Period
Rates - COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy	TBD

Sewerage Discount Summary	
Additional Pedestal Charges Discount effective by application until 30/12/2020	
Attribute Class	Discount Rate
Caravan Parks	50%
Caravan Parks/State Government	50%
Guest House Private Hotel	25%
Guest House Private Hotel/Offices	25%
Hotel Tavern	50%
Hotel Tavern/Shopping Group (2-6 Shops)	50%
Licensed Clubs	50%
Motels	50%
Motels/Childcare ex kindergarten	50%
Other Clubs (Non Business)	100%
Sports Clubs Facilities	100%
Sports Clubs Facilities/Dwelling	100%
Sports Clubs Facilities/Local Government	100%

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