

STATE STIMULUS PACKAGES

WA - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- Freeze will be placed on household fees and charges, including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, the emergency services levy and public transport fares until July 2021.
- \$1 million payroll tax threshold brought forward by six months to July 1, 2020
- Small and medium sized businesses affected by COVID-19 can now apply to defer payment of their 2019-20 payroll tax until July 21, 2020. The deferral is available to employers who pay \$7.5 million or less in Australian Taxable Wages and have been directly or indirectly impacted by COVID-19. **READ MORE**
- Energy Assistance Payment (EAP) doubled to \$600 for eligible concession card-holders
- Payroll tax paying businesses with a payroll between \$1 million and \$4 million will receive a one-off grant of \$17,500
- Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can defer payroll tax payments until July 21, 2020
- From 9pm on Thursday March 26, 2020, access will be restricted into the following regions: Kimberley (comprising all four local government areas); Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku; Parts of the Shire of East Pilbara that encompass the communities of Jigalong, Martu homeland communities and Kiwirrkurra. any person who is outside a designated region can only enter that region if that person: is providing essential services or supplies; or has been quarantined from the general public for the previous 14 days. For more information, visit <http://www.wa.gov.au/aboriginalcommunities>

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- From midnight Tuesday 31st March 2020 restrictions will be placed on travel within the entire State of Western Australia. Western Australians will not be permitted to leave their regional boundary. Police have the power to enforce these restrictions if necessary, and fines of up to \$50,000 can be issued.
[MORE INFO](#)
- Expenditure relief for WA's mining exploration industry [READ MORE](#)
- **'Here for WA'** campaign - will allow workers seeking employment in regional WA to register their interest and connect with regional employers, labour hire companies and recruitment businesses looking for casual, skilled and unskilled workers.
- Police enforcement squad to patrol streets and ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions. \$1,000 fines to be issued immediately for disobeying self-isolation and gathering directives
- From Monday, March 30 until April 9, Western Australian TAFE will put a temporary pause in face-to-face delivery of most courses. Lecturers and non-teaching staff will prepare to move to a new style of training in Term 2. [MORE DETAILS](#)
- **\$159 million COVID-19 Relief Fund** - \$59 million immediately available for crisis relief for organisations helping people experiencing hardship as well as for community groups impacted by event cancellations. Eligible not-for-profit organisations and community groups can apply immediately for grant support by visiting <http://www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au/grants> or by calling 133 777.

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- Western Australians who are experiencing hardship because of COVID-19 now have greater access to legal support, with Legal Aid WA increasing its services in the community. More information can be found at <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au> or by calling the Legal Aid Infoline on 1300 650 579.

1 BILLION ECONOMIC + HEALTH RELIEF PACKAGE

Household assistance

- Eligibility for the Energy Assistance Payment boost has been expanded until September 30, 2020. This doubles the amount of the EAP per year to \$610 and provides a boost to Western Australians affected by COVID-19. This ensures that any person unemployed due to COVID-19 who becomes eligible for a concession card will receive an upfront \$305 credited against their electricity bill (from May 11, 2020) and up to a further \$305 credited over the course of the next year. EAP boost payments for Western Australians, eligible as at March 16, 2020 have been brought forward to this financial year rather than being paid from July 1, 2020 providing relief sooner to WA households.
- No households in Western Australia experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19 will have their power or water disconnected. In addition, as of tomorrow no interest will be charged on deferred bill payments for those experiencing COVID-19-related financial hardship. This applies to Synergy and Horizon Power customers.

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- Households that are directly or indirectly impacted by COVID-19 may also apply for an interest-free payment arrangement and for late payment penalties to be waived for transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty or land tax.
- Keystart customers facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 can apply to defer principal repayments and waive interest costs by up to six months. Assistance will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in line with Keystart's Hardship Assessment policy. This will mean, for example, a customer borrowing \$350,000 over a 30-year loan can defer estimated repayments of \$10,690 over six months, or \$1,781 per month. The interest saving over a six-month period would be around \$7,000 for newly established loans.

Small and medium-sized business assistance

- Electricity bills will be reduced, with a one-off \$2,500 credit available for Synergy and Horizon Power customers that consume less than 50 megawatt hours (MWh) per annum. The credit is available for current customers (as of March 31, 2020) and will be allocated from May 1, 2020.
- Payroll tax will be waived for 4 months between March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 for small-to-medium sized businesses with Australia-wide annual wages of less than \$7.5 million in 2019-20. The payroll tax waiver announced today replaces the payroll tax deferral already announced for particular small-to-medium sized businesses.

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- Wide range of licence fees waived for small and medium-sized businesses in COVID-19 impacted industries for the next 12 months. This includes licences for building services, plumbers and electricians; tourism businesses operating in national and marine parks; boat registration and mooring fees for commercial fishers; commercial fisheries licences and other statutory planning fees.
- Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can also apply for an interest-free payment arrangement and for late payment penalties to be waived for payroll tax, transfer duty, landholder duty, vehicle licence duty or land tax.
- No small businesses facing financial difficulty due to COVID-19 will face power or water disconnections due to late payments. In addition, no interest will be charged on deferred bill payments. For electricity, this will apply to Synergy and Horizon Power customers who consume 50MWh or less.
- Western Australian subbies and small businesses will have greater protection against mistreatment with the passing of new laws. Under the new laws, the Small Business Commissioner has greater powers to investigate improper behaviour such as price gouging and late or non-payments of insurance claims or denial of claims. [READ MORE](#)
- From 11.59pm Thursday 2nd April 2020, new boundaries, in line with the four local government areas (shires of Broome, Derby West Kimberley, Wyndham East Kimberley, Halls Creek) within the Kimberley region will be in place. People must stay in their local government area. The existing exemptions apply, such as provision of essential services or supplies, freight, medical reasons or compassionate grounds. [READ MORE](#)

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- **Border closure** on the State of Western Australia effective from midnight, or 11.59pm, on Sunday, April 5, people will no longer be able to enter Western Australia without an exemption.
- Changes to Western Australia's strata law will be introduced on May 1, 2020 to better support the thousands of Western Australians who own, live in or want to buy strata properties. For more information about the changes, visit <http://www.strata.wa.gov.au> or call Landgate's customer service on (08) 9273 7373.
- Evolve Bayswater Alliance (Coleman Rail) was identified as the preferred proponent to build the major METRONET project, which is set to support more than 350 jobs. **MORE DETAILS**
- Western Australian businesses will be exempt from paying payroll tax on the Commonwealth's \$1,500-a-fortnight JobKeeper wage subsidy. **MORE DETAILS**
- Local Planning Schemes - Regulatory changes came into effect on 3 April 2020 in response to the current State of Emergency for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. These exemptions will remain in effect until 90 days after the end of the State of Emergency. **EXEMPTIONS**
- **Pandemic Leave** - Two weeks' unpaid pandemic leave to all private sector employees plus employees can now take annual leave at half pay and in advance. **READ MORE**

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- Tradies wanted to teach prisoners life-changing skills. [READ MORE](#)
- Public schools will open for students from Wednesday, April 29 [READ MORE](#)
- Australian Capital Equity and Munderoo Group named preferred proponents to progress a \$218 million revitalisation of the East Perth Power Station precinct [READ MORE](#)
- New \$154.5 million relief package to support tenants, landlords and construction industry [READ MORE](#)
- \$24.5 million support package for construction workforce [READ MORE](#)
- Easing of some of WA's stage 3 restrictions effective Monday, April 27 2020 [READ MORE](#)
- TAFE colleges prepared for a new blended delivery style in response to COVID-19 [READ MORE](#)
- Major projects fast-tracked to support jobs during COVID-19 [READ MORE](#)
- Clean energy projects will be eligible for funding of between \$250,000 and \$2 million per project, with the State Government funding up to 25 per cent of eligible project costs. [READ MORE](#)
- South-West businesses invited to help transform Bunbury Waterfront. [READ MORE](#)

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- The Department of Finance will fast-track payments to suppliers for invoices of under \$1 million as part of a new initiative that will provide additional support for Western Australian businesses during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. [READ MORE](#)
- Residential and small business ratepayers who are suffering financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic will not be charged interest on overdue rates in 2020-21. The maximum interest rate payable by all ratepayers has also been reduced. [READ MORE](#)
- New legislation introduced into Parliament to provide a simpler and more consistent Government procurement framework. [READ MORE](#)
- Rio Tinto Iron Ore's commitment of \$50,000 to fund the upskilling of apprentices displaced during the COVID-19 pandemic
• [READ MORE](#)
- Specific rate royalties applied to minerals used by Western Australia's building and construction sector will remain at their current levels and not increase for the next five-years commencing July 1, 2020. [READ MORE](#)
- The McGowan Government is bringing forward funds earmarked in a \$150 million housing investment package to help maintain a pipeline of work for local tradies and building businesses. [READ MORE](#)
- Major reforms to simplify Western Australia's planning system and boost the State's economic recovery from COVID-19 will be introduced to Parliament on 20th May. [READ MORE](#)

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- Major METRONET project construction contracts awarded. Evolve Bayswater Alliance (Coleman Rail) has been awarded the contract to design and build the new METRONET Bayswater Station project. Western Australian company Decmil will also be a contributor on the Bayswater project. Meanwhile, Downer EDI has been awarded the contract to remove the Denny Avenue level crossing [READ MORE](#)
- Tender released to build MRI suite at Kalgoorlie Health Campus [READ MORE](#)
- Western Power community battery unlocks Kalgoorlie's solar future [READ MORE](#)
- From Friday, May 29 the regional boundaries will be lifted except for regions that are bound by the Commonwealth's designated biosecurity determination and 274 remote Aboriginal communities. [READ MORE](#)
- Phase 3 of COVID-19 roadmap to commence from Saturday, June 6 [READ MORE](#)
- Fees scrapped to support more than 3,000 displaced apprentices for 6 months. [READ MORE](#)
- The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) is inviting governments to apply to use cash contributions collected from developers to undertake improvement works on open space, community facilities and infrastructure. [READ MORE](#)
- New \$444 million housing stimulus for Western Australia [READ MORE](#)

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- The McGowan Labor Government has announced a \$125 million Building Bonus package to ramp up activity in the residential building sector, stimulate the economy and support around 2,600 local jobs. [READ MORE](#)
- The McGowan Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery package will see 1,500 public and community houses refurbished, a rolling maintenance program targeting 3,800 regional dwellings and the delivery of about 250 new homes to help meet Western Australia's social housing needs. [READ MORE](#)
- The State Government is calling for proposals from qualified, experienced and financially capable builders to be part of a new Design and Construct and/or Housing Refurbishment Builders Panel. [READ MORE](#)
- The McGowan Government has launched a Pilbara business register to allow local businesses to register their interest in working on the \$121.5 million Spoilbank Marina project. [READ MORE](#)
- \$223 million to unlock hundreds of local infrastructure jobs [READ MORE](#)
- Phase 4 of the WA roadmap to relax COVID-restrictions further starts Saturday, June 27 [READ MORE](#)
- From September 1, drivers caught holding or touching their phone to make a voice call when it is not mounted in a cradle will receive an increased penalty of \$500 and three demerit points. [READ MORE](#)
- The McGowan Government has today announced \$10 million for purchase of essential equipment and home modifications to support Western Australians with disability or a medical condition. [READ MORE](#)

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- Off-the-plan purchase program adds to support for construction sector [READ MORE](#)
- McGowan Government negotiates historic planning reforms through Parliament [READ MORE](#)
- The redevelopment of the Newman Health Service is moving forward with the tender for construction awarded to ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd [READ MORE](#)
- MyLeave changes for construction employers - levy reduced to 0.01% for six months [READ MORE](#)
- Water charges relief for regional businesses affected by COVID-19 [READ MORE](#)
- \$6,000 for employers who take on a displaced apprentice [READ MORE](#)
- \$57 million recovery package for WA TAFE and training sector [READ MORE](#)
- The Leak Assist pilot program encourages action to fix leaky plumbing in the home with a \$100 rebate on residential water bills [READ MORE](#)
- Tougher regime on Victorian arrivals into WA [READ MORE](#)
- Historic planning reforms cut red tape and open WA for business [READ MORE](#)
- Draft Master Plan released for landmark Subi East redevelopment [READ MORE](#)
- \$116m affordable land package to drive growth in regional WA [READ MORE](#)

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- WA small businesses to receive \$17,500 grant to assist during COVID-19 [READ MORE](#)
- The McGowan Government will implement changes to procurement of works contracts from today (July 22) to make it easier for local businesses to work with government agencies. [READ MORE](#)
- Western Australian home builders can now apply online for up to \$45,000 in government grants, with the release of a joint application form for the Building Bonus and HomeBuilder grants. [READ MORE](#)
- \$5.5 billion WA Recovery Plan launched to get WA back on track [READ MORE](#)
- \$66.3 million renewable energy technologies boost in WA recovery [READ MORE](#)
- \$229.2 million Rebuilding our TAFEs program announced [READ MORE](#)
- \$300 million investment in sport and community infrastructure [READ MORE](#)
- Aboriginal communities to receive \$38.9 million water service upgrades [READ MORE](#)
- \$17 million for new trades workshop at South Regional TAFE's Albany campus [READ MORE](#)
- Record allocation of \$2 million for Local Capability Fund to support WA businesses [READ MORE](#)
- Progress on new planning regulations to cut red tape [READ MORE](#)

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- Building for Tomorrow program a key feature of economic recovery [READ MORE](#)
- The McGowan Government has unveiled a \$252.3 million package for the South-West region, as part of the WA Recovery Plan, to drive economic and social recovery and create a pipeline of local jobs. [READ MORE](#)
- Construction of ONE Subiaco will be undertaken by Multiplex and will create and support 1,650 jobs and a pipeline of work with hundreds of direct and indirect jobs once the project is built. [READ MORE](#)
- Government taking action to crack down on copper theft. [READ MORE](#)
- WA Government launches Distributed Energy Buyback Scheme. [READ MORE](#)
- McGowan Government launches solar schools program for regions [READ MORE](#)
- New COVID-19 testing for border workers and hotel quarantine staff [READ MORE](#)
- Building Bonus boost part of new COVID-19 Industry Support Fund [READ MORE](#)
- COVID-19 disaster payments to be available to Western Australians [READ MORE](#)

The Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC)
ph: 133 140 or visit www.smallbusiness.wa.gov.au

You can register your intention to claim a Centrelink payment using myGov. You don't need to complete a full claim right now. Payments will be backdated to the date you registered. [MORE INFO](#)

[Think Mental Health WA](#)
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ACTION ITEM

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CONNECT YOU WITH ONE.