

CLIENT ALERT

APRIL 2020

Contents

- Payroll Tax Measures
- Land Tax and rental support announced 13th April 2020
- \$10,000 cash grant to businesses, announced 3rd April 2020
- Other measures

Coronavirus - NSW Government announces more measures to assist - Summary of measures to Easter Monday, 13th April 2020

The NSW government has progressively announced measures to assist with the impact of Coronavirus, with the latest being announced on Easter Monday, 13th April 2020.

Below is a listing for clients operating in NSW to assist with making an assessment of what is available and what needs to be done.

Some measures are legislated and some are only announced.

1. Payroll Tax Measures

25% discount off payroll tax bill for all employers with Grouped Australian wages of no more than \$10M. If you have grouped Australian wages >\$10M, a payment deferral of up to 6 months may be applied for. Watch this [page](#) on updates on how to apply for payment deferral. The 25% discount is automatically applied to eligible employers.

In NSW, employers do not need to lodge monthly payroll tax for March, April and May, but need to lodge full year reconciliation for June 2020, then the 25% discount will be applied to the payroll tax liability for the full year.

The increase in the payroll tax threshold to \$1 million, due to commence on 1st July 2021, is also being brought forward and will commence on 1st July 2020.

These measures have been legislated.

2. Land Tax and rental support announced 13th April 2020

There is currently no moratorium on land tax, but Revenue NSW has said that as a matter of administration they are extending deadlines for payments and applying leniency for late payment. Application for extension for payment or an instalment plan can be set up [here](#).

However as part of the rental support [announcement](#) on 13th April 2020, the Treasurer said the Government was allocating around \$440M of rent relief in the form of land tax waivers or rebates, with the expectation that this would be split evenly between business and residential landlords. The Treasurer said that residential landlords can apply for a land tax waiver or rebate of up to 25% if they pass the reduction onto tenants in financial distress.

The details of this measure have not been released, and we expect NSW Parliament to be recalled to pass the measures, including land tax payment deferral of three months. This is part of a six-month support package which includes a moratorium on application for forced evictions due to rental arrears for those financially disadvantaged by Covid-19. Whether the measures contain an upper ceiling on land values or what constitutes “financial distress” is yet to be advised.

3. \$10,000 cash grant to businesses, announced 3rd April 2020

To be eligible, businesses will need to:

- Have between 1-19 employees and a turnover of more than \$75,000;
- A payroll below the NSW Government 2019-20 payroll tax threshold of \$900,000;
- Have an Australian Business Number as at 1st March 2020, be based in NSW and employ staff as at 1st March 2020;
- Be highly impacted by the Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020 issued on 30th March 2020;
- Use the funding for unavoidable business costs such as utilities, overheads, legal costs and financial advice;
- Provide appropriate documentation upon application.

Applications for a small business grant of up to \$10,000 will be available through Service NSW from 17th April 2020 and remain open until 1st June 2020. See details of rules [here](#).

4. Other Measures

\$80 million has been allocated for the removal of fees and charges applicable to small businesses owners such as cafes and restaurants and those in trades. They are listed [here](#) as follows:

- Deferral of the parking space levy for 6 months.
- Deferral of rents for 6 months for commercial tenants with less than 20 employees in all Government-owned properties.

Licence, registration and permit fees will be automatically waived for 12-months on new applications and renewals lodged by eligible businesses and individuals as follows:

From 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

- Liquor licences for bars, pubs, clubs, hotels and most other licensed venues
- Licences for tattoo parlours and pyrotechnicians
- Paintball venue permits
- Registration of amusement devices.

From 20 April 2020 to 19 April 2021

- Licences for tattooists
- Licences for packaged liquor licences for small operators (up to 3 licencees).

Licences relating to gambling are excluded.

From 15 April 2020 to 14 April 2021

- 1-year building contractor licences, trade or specialist contractor licences and motor vehicle repairer licences. For 3-year or 5-year licence applications and renewals, the licence fee is discounted by 1 year.
- 5-year High Risk Work licences and asbestos removal licences
- 2-year demolition licences

From 20 April 2020 to 19 April 2021

- High Risk Work Assessor Accreditation licence
- SafeWork Registered Training Organisations licence
- The following 1-year licences:
 - » Home Building: Qualified Supervisor Certificate
 - » Home Building: Tradesperson Certificates
 - » Motor Vehicle Tradesperson Certificates (MVTC)

For longer application and renewal durations, the licence fee is discounted by 1 year.

Fee waivers for change of class, amendments to licences and replacement licences are excluded.

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

**LEVEL 40, 2 PARK STREET
SYDNEY, NSW, 2000
sydney@hallchadwick.com.au
+61 2 9263 2600**