



Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 25 – 28/05/2020 – 5.00pm

*Here's the latest update from the **Southern Lakes Business Response & Recovery team***

Next update is Thursday 4 June, bar any significant announcements between now and then. We wish you all the best for the long weekend ahead.

Alert Level Updates

Alert Level 2 guidelines have been updated today. Find them [here](#)

The person limit for gatherings will increase to 100 from tomorrow 29 May. The new limit applies to gatherings at your home, events outside of home and public venues – including church services, weddings, funerals and tangihanga. [Read more](#)

“Tasman Bubble”

A draft blueprint into how safe trans-Tasman travel could start is to be presented to the New Zealand and Australian Governments in early June. The plan is being put together by a team industry and government experts from both countries called the Trans-Tasman Safe Border Group, which is being coordinated by the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum. [Read more](#)

COVID-19

Update of the services available through the free 0800 COVID-19 Business Helpline.

- specific advice and access to Government-funded business support
- advice on what Alert Level 3 means for your business
- general business advice and access to online resources and webinars
- connections to business advisory services
- HR, employee relations, and health and safety advice.

To find out more call 0800 500 362 (North Island), or 0800 50 50 96 (South Island).

To ensure businesses in your areas are aware of and get support, we would greatly appreciate you communicating the above to your businesses.

The high level advice given is in relation to COVID-19 impacts and a key part of the service is also referring onto other business support organisations including the RBP network, Chambers, BusinessNZ network etc.

Tourism

Tourism New Zealand has launched the first phase of its domestic campaign, Do Something New, New Zealand. The campaign will run on social media, on demand streaming services and traditional media websites. It follows a social media campaign by TNZ encouraging Kiwis to travel safely as the country transitioned to Alert Level 2 last week. [Read more](#)

Destination Queenstown's domestic winter campaign kicks off this Sunday 31 May. This will be a full funnel campaign to stimulate demand and immediate action and has been specifically created to inspire kiwis to travel post-lockdown. [Read more](#)

Welfare

The Government has announced a new temporary payment for Kiwis who lose their jobs due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID Income Relief Payment is being introduced, alongside a wider work programme on possible future employment insurance as we rebuild our economy in a way that supports workers and businesses together. The payment will be available for 12 weeks from 8 June for anyone who has lost their job due to the impact of COVID-19 since March 1. It will pay \$490 a week to those who lost full-time work and \$250 for part-time. The payment will not be taxed. [Read more](#)

New Avonhead Travel in Christchurch is organising an Air New Zealand chartered flight to Korea on 8 June and would be grateful if you could forward this information through your networks to help us reach local South Korean citizens who may be interested.

The Auckland to Incheon flight departs at 9am on 8 June and the price for a one-way ticket is \$1800 (economy), \$2400 (premium economy) and \$3750 (business) per person. Domestic flights to Auckland must be organised separately by the traveller.

To register, complete the travel agency's Google form for [reservation requests here](#).

Immigration NZ - Information for employers of temporary migrants has been updated for employers. [Click here](#) for latest factsheet and FAQs.

Speak Portuguese? Here's where to get help in Otago - a Portuguese [translation video can be found here](#).

Southern Lakes Civil Defence Support - From next week, the Queenstown's Civil Defence welfare support service will move to a Monday to Friday operation.

If you have employees or members of your community group who you think may require assistance we ask that you let them know of the change to our hours as they will need to plan ahead to ensure they are not caught short at the weekend. All that has changed is that applications will no longer be processed during the weekend or on public holidays. As Monday 1 June is a public holiday, staff will not be processing requests on this day. People can continue to apply for support via the welfare form on the QLDC website at anytime but need to be aware that requests made using this form will only be processed during business hours, Monday to Friday.

The Otago Helpline (0800 322 4000 or help@otagocdem.govt.nz) will continue to operate 9am to 5pm daily for urgent requests.

If people need help paying rent, power or gas bills they can apply for help from Otago Civil Defence online. Applications made are processed during business hours Monday to Friday.

Queenstown will be the recipient of \$1.4million to support local worker redeployment and labour market activity as part of the Government's redeployment package. [Read more](#)

Business Debt Hibernation

Business Debt Hibernation (BDH) allows your business to hibernate existing debts for up to seven months so your business can get back on its feet, rather than putting in place processes such as liquidation. It requires permission from your creditors and means you can continue trading - subject to any restrictions agreed with creditors as a condition of entering into hibernation.

BDH is available to a wide range of businesses including companies, trusts and partnerships who were registered or existed prior to 3 April 2020. It does not extend to licensed insurers, registered banks, non-bank deposit takers and sole traders. Sole traders who become insolvent are instead subject to the Insolvency Act 2006 (which covers personal insolvency) because there is no separation between the trader's business finances and their personal finances. We suggest you discuss the process with your accountant, lawyer or insolvency practitioner.

The business.govt.nz BDH tool provides information on how to place a business in hibernation and links to the required forms, including:

- Business Debt Hibernation Entry Notice
- Creditor Proposal Pro-Forma
- Letter to Creditors Template, and
- Business Debt Hibernation Decision Notice (Approved) or (Not Approved).

Find out more about the business.govt.nz [Business Debt Hibernation tool](#). You don't need a login to use this tool.

[Applications for loan support close 12 June](#)

Government loans of up to \$100,000 are still available for eligible businesses to help with cash flow. Nearly \$1 billion in support has already gone out to small businesses, including contractors and self-employed. Applications close 12 June. **Find out [here](#)** if your business is eligible for the small business cash flow loan scheme and how to apply.

Stuff has also recently launched its new [Prosper](#) section to provide practical support to SMEs with insights, advice and live chats with business experts. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/prosper>

Neighbourly is also offering [Business Boost](#), a free three-month premium business listing for New Zealand SMEs, until the end of May. It is purpose-designed to help businesses get back on their feet by marketing to a hyper-local audience and reaching genuine, verified customers from day one.

Good Reads

Paymark has made its Insights platform available for free until the end of July. Read about how data may help your business during recovering [here](#). Some of the latest information out of Paymark is around the '[future of payments](#)', which will be of interest to retailers. They've also got intel on NZ consumer spending trends to **delve into [here](#)**

Webinars

General business and economic

[Post Budget Webinar with Hon Grant Robertson, Friday 29 May, 9am](#)

We invite you to join us as we host Minister of Finance, Hon Grant Robertson, for an online discussion about the Budget announcement earlier this month.

In this webinar, Minister Robertson will discuss implications of the 2020 Budget for Otago business and the regional support that will be in place to assist as business in Otago begins to recover and rebuild. **This event will take place online, [please register here.](#)**

HOW TO TAKE YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE hosted by Lynda Henderson and Rebecca Twemlow FIREBRAND - Wednesday 3 June 2020 10:00am

- How do I develop or evolve my brand and story?
- Creating quality content and considering platform options
- Managing expectations - Knowledge, time, budget
- Digital Marketing and advertising - Connecting with customers, what works?
- Tools and tips

[Register in advance for this webinar here.](#)

Cooking Up E-Commerce hosted by Lynda Henderson and Alex Murray from FIREBRAND Wednesday 10 June 2020 10:00am

- E-Commerce planning, design and platform options
- A demonstration on how to build an e-commerce site (from content to inside a popular platform)
- Q&A on e-commerce for Otago businesses

[Register in advance for this webinar here.](#)

Institute of Directors

[28 May, 10.00-11.00am: Director Dialogue this Thursday with Sarah Ottrey](#): Covid 19 – telling signs of our organisation’s future prosperity – the move online has gone next level. Has our customer experience (CX) held up?

[3 June, 11.00am- 12.00pm: Richard Klipin, CEO of the Financial Services Council](#) leads a Director Dialogue event looking at how boards can set the tone of culture and conduct from the top.

[11 June, 10.00-11.00am : Director Dialogue with Rowena Davenport and Jessica Palmer](#) who will share a personal perspective on their own governance journeys and their learnings along the way.