



Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 14 – 14/04/2020 – 4.00pm

*Here's the latest update from the **Southern Lakes Business Response & Recovery team**. New information is in red.*

Easter weekend has been and gone and hopefully for many of us this was time for reflection and family time. We're now entering week three of Level 4 lockdown, with an end potentially insight - or is it? In just under 7 days Cabinet will meet to decide on how we/if we progress down to Level 3.

Today, the State of National Emergency to support the COVID-19 response was extended a third time, for a further seven days. The initial declaration was made on March 25, and the seven-day declaration can be extended as many times as necessary. It does not change the length of the Alert Level 4 lockdown.

The government and Ministry of Health are still keen to remind us all that we haven't won the battle with COVID-19 yet and we don't know when we will move to level 3. If we move too early, we will go backwards in our fight against COVID-19. The government has also been clear that we are to be prepared that the time we are in Level 4 could be extended (see scenario plans below).

Some general information about what Alert Level 3 will mean for individuals and businesses will be released publicly this week (Thursday) and it will include guidance that allows New Zealand to prepare. What we do know is that at Level 3, there will still be restrictions on workplaces, schools and gatherings to make sure New Zealand continues to win the fight against Covid-19.

Businesses have been asked to think now about how to support contact-tracing tools or mechanisms and keep track of supply chain and customers. Information about each level can be found on the [covid-19.govt.nz website here](https://www.covid-19.govt.nz).

Week three is shaping up to be a big week for businesses, with a number of announcements due to inform business planning, including the economic scenarios just released today by the Treasury (details below).

What does this week bring?

- Today Treasury released its economic scenario planning (see below under what's new)
- Wednesday 15 April - Finance Minister Grant Robertson will announce more assistance for businesses.
- On Thursday 16 April, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern will announce details of what Level 3 means for businesses, schools, health and our community. Details will be announced at the 1pm press conference and updated on the website here www.covid19.govt.nz.
- On April 20, Cabinet will make a decision on whether New Zealand will change Alert Levels or stay at Alert Level 4.

As such we'll bring you updates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week to ensure you're receiving the current information, updates and support you need to make decisions for your business and employees.

What's new?

Economic Scenarios - The Treasury has released economic scenarios showing the potential impact of COVID-19 on unemployment, GDP and the ability for the economy to recover. There are five scenarios explored with varying degrees of fiscal support, analysing different levels and time periods within those levels, as well as border closure times and global economics. [Read the full report and the detailed scenarios here.](#)

- **Key results include:**

- Falls in annual GDP are greatest in the year to March 2021, and vary from a decline of around 13% in Scenario 1, the least restrictive of the scenarios considered, to closer to one third in Scenario 3 which involves tight restrictions throughout the year.

- Peaks in the unemployment rate vary from around 13% in Scenario 1 to nearly 26% in Scenario 3.

- Inflation remains below the 2.0% mid-point of the target range throughout the forecast period, and monetary conditions are supportive throughout.

Recovery

COVID-19 Updates and articles - Infometrics has prepared a range of insights on COVID-19 which are now [available to the public here.](#)

Regional insights - As part of the Southern Lakes Recovery Group work, we are also developing region-specific data that will pull together a range of information and analysis to inform councils', economic development agencies' and other key players' short-term responses to the pandemic, as well as supporting annual and long-term planning activities.

The Reports will provide in-depth economic insights into the short-term economic impacts of the pandemic for New Zealand's regional economies and communities, likely economic recovery trajectories, and short-term forecasts of economic activity in the regions. More details to come.

Hack The Crisis New Zealand is a 48-hour Innovation Challenge, 100% online, to design, test and bring to life innovative ideas for life in New Zealand beyond COVID-19. Ideas can come from anywhere: they're looking for developers, designers, educators, mums, tradies, students, non-profit organisations, CEOs, librarians... Anyone who can jump in, sleeves rolled up, ready to out think, out design and out manoeuvre this crisis. The focus will be on supporting businesses, connecting communities, and resilience and well being. [Click here to join.](#)

ANZ Business Outlook Report - ANZ has just released its monthly business outlook report. Business confidence fell 9 points to -73% in the preliminary April read of the ANZ Business Outlook survey. Expected own activity plummeted 34 points, with a net 61% of firms now expecting lower activity for their firm in the year ahead. We've never seen numbers like these. Click here to read the full report. (PDF in folder)

- All key activity indicators fell further from March levels, most to record lows.
- Pricing and cost indicators also dropped sharply. Inflation expectations dropped from 1.5% to 1.3%.

Level 3 customer distancing and registration tools

- Safer Lines Queue Management Software has brought to market a scalable SaaS solution for retailers to implement effective line queuing and social distancing. Visit www.saferlines.com to see an overview of the offering.
- Guest HQ provides an online tool and app to track your guests/customers under Level 3 - **Visit the registry and start tracking customers here.**

Health and wellbeing

New wellbeing initiatives - The Government is making further support available for Kiwis wanting to look after their mental wellbeing as a result of change and uncertainty from COVID-19.

The three discrete initiatives are: the *Mentemia* app developed by All Blacks legend Sir John Kirwan; a health journal app called *Melon*; and an e-therapy programme called *Staying on Track*. **Links below.**

- mentemia.com/
- melonhealth.com/covid-19
- justathought.co.nz/covid19 for *Staying on Track*

Xero Assistance Programme (XAP) for businesses who are on Xero - XAP is a mental wellbeing support service, available through global EAP provider Benestar. It is 100 percent confidential and free of charge to all Xero starter, standard and premium subscribers, their employees and their families. All Xero accountants and bookkeepers are also eligible for XAP. The programme provides access to counselling via telephone, video or live chat sessions. There's also a range of mental wellbeing resources such as fact sheets, articles and learning modules. [Click here to find out more.](#)

The COVID19.govt.nz website is now zero-rated or 'virtually free'. This means if your smartphone has no data allowance you can still visit the COVID-19 website if you are with Spark, Vodafone, 2 Degrees or Skinny.

Wage subsidy advice

The Ministry for Social Development has advised us that some wage subsidy applications have been declined due to incorrect information. These businesses will be sent an email explaining their application has been declined and that they need to check their details are correct with IRD. In order to ensure you get the subsidy as quickly as possible, MSD has provided some guidance below:

Advice for applicants:

Make sure that they have all the information at their fingertips when they go online to apply, ie:

- Staff member name
- Staff IRD number
- Staff status – part-time or full-time (and that this is correct)

Please also read the instructions before applying and tick the right boxes on the forms.

For example:

- If people are self-employed, sole trader or a contractor, the applicant doesn't have staff and should use the **Self Employed Application**.
- If they are a sole trader, they need to make sure that they are registered as such with IRD (MSD check and if IRD say they aren't self-employed/sole trader, the application is declined).
- If they have any staff at all, they should be ticking the **Employer Application**. The business owners should be including themselves in the list of staff.

Good Read

Smart green growth requires investment - An effective recovery from COVID-19 requires on the ground investment in projects that will bring immediate employment benefits and lasting environmental benefits, according to Federated Farmers. Federated Farmers has written to Ministers outlining a range of practical, on the ground initiatives that could provide employment and environmental benefits post COVID19, building on existing work. [Click here to read more.](#)

Responding to COVID-19 - Global insights and analysis on various sectors - COVID-19 continues to spread around the world with new information emerging daily. The outbreak has had far-reaching effects, including on the public at large as well as travel, supply chains, and economies globally. For organizations, especially multinational businesses, the outbreak can have extensive implications, some of which have already been felt. Hotels have been forced to close, airlines have cancelled thousands of flights, and supply chains have been hit hard, while financial markets have been volatile. Oliver Wyman has been monitoring the latest events and are putting forth perspectives to support clients and the industries they serve around the world. The Coronavirus Hub will be updated regularly as the situation evolves. [Click here to view.](#)

Reminder:

Immigration New Zealand - INZ has updated information around visa applications. [Click here to review details.](#) The Government has decided to suspend:

- Selections for Expressions of Interest (EOI) in the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and the Parent Category
- Ballot registrations for the Samoan Quota (SQ) and Pacific Access Category (PAC)
- 19 capped Working Holiday schemes due to open in the next 6 months.
- This is a temporary measure. Immigration New Zealand will continue to reassess and determine when the programmes can resume.

Webinars

Tourism and Hospitality specific

A webinar around the project Tourism New Zealand is leading to re-imagine the way tourism is managed in New Zealand. *Speakers - Minister of Tourism, Hon Kelvin Davis, Tourism NZ Chief Executive, Stephen England-Hall, Air New Zealand Chief Revenue Officer, Cam Wallace.*
Wednesday 15 April - 1:30-2:30PM. [Register for the Zoom meeting here.](#)

Hospitality industry - The Restaurant Association is holding weekly webinars for members and non-members on topics including restructuring, social media marketing, food costing and more. [Click here for all training and webinars](#)

General business and economic

Infometrics - Where our economy is heading - Infometrics Senior Economist Brad Olsen and Rob Heyes will outline where we now see the economy heading, how this direction will impact regional areas, and areas of focus as we turn our minds to the recovery post-lockdown. Wednesday 15 April, 11AM - 12PM. [Register for the webinar here.](#)

Internet Communications During Lockdown with Ajay Kumar Parmar, Vodafone NZ - Wednesday 15th April 2020, 10:00am. Register in advance for this webinar: [Click here](#)

Explore teleconferencing options while navigating possible security risks to your meetings, and your data. Up to date information on New Zealand's recent phishing scams targeting the change in our working environment

- Teleconferencing bombing/hijacking
- Tips to secure your meetings
- Security risks when working from home
- Tips to work more securely
- COVID-19/Lockdown scams

Harnessing your Resilience during COVID-19 - facilitated by Workplace Support Southern Training & Development Manager, Trudy Schievink.

- Thursday 16th April, 2pm - [Click here to register.](#)

We are living through an unprecedented event that means our world is changing rapidly around us. Now is the time for us to ensure we are looking after ourselves so we can in turn, look after others. How we view these challenges and respond to this specific event will influence the way we navigate through this COVID-19 crisis.

This one-hour online webinar introduces how resiliency can enhance our capacity to effectively manage during this crisis. It includes identifying sources and symptoms of stress, explores the importance of harnessing resiliency and introduces resiliency strategies and resources.

FAQs

Business FAQs on COVID-19 - How do I apply for the subsidy, what does it mean for my business, the economy, my staff etc. [BDO has set up a great resource here.](#)

General FAQs on COVID-19 - What it is, what self-isolation and level 4 means etc. [Click here for the COVID-19 website.](#)

Local FAQs on COVID-19 - What services are available, how can I get help etc. [Click here for local Council information.](#)

Local Business FAQs- Up-to-date [local information for businesses here.](#)

We are here to help, so if you have any concerns, or are not getting the support you need, from the resources, please contact anyone below.

Destination Queenstown – Ann Lockhart – CEO – annl@queenstownNZ.nz

Queenstown Chamber – Anna Mickell – CEO – ceo@queenstownchamber.org.nz

Lake Wanaka Tourism – James Helmore – GM – james@wanaka.co.nz

Ignite Wanaka Chamber – Naomi Lindsay – Executive Officer – naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz

QLDC Economic Development – Peter Harris – Economic Development Manager
peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz

Regional Business Partners – Tara Druce – Business Advisor – tara@otagorbp.co.nz