

Unite against COVID-19



Webinar: evaluating and refining your business continuity planning

In our third live webinar this Thursday 16 April at 2pm, BDO's business continuity planning partner [Mark Cushing](#) and Food & Agribusiness executive director [Margaux Beauchamp](#) take a deep dive to evaluate and refine a food and agribusiness business continuity plan in the context of COVID-19.



Following the presentation, there will be a live Q&A around specific BCP questions you have or issues you are facing. We encourage you to share your questions in advance upon registering.

[REGISTER](#)

Workplace health plans

Workplaces employing interstate staff should complete a [health plan](#) prior to work commencing. The plan, to be submitted to Queensland Health, will help businesses understand and control the risks associated with doing business during COVID-19.

Health directive on weapons for primary producers

Pest management and animal welfare activities can continue on-farm during COVID-19 restrictions.

Under exceptions to the health directive on weapons, licensed armourers, dealers and authorised ammunition resellers can continue to provide weapons and ammunition to primary producers for the management of pests and animal welfare on their property.

Exceptions are also in place for veterinarians, local government, pest animal controllers, commercial macropod harvesters and shark control contractors.

More information [here](#).

COVID-19 agriculture support web pages

The latest COVID-19 information for agriculture and associated industries can be found on the Business Queensland [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) support for agriculture web pages](#).

Content is regularly updated as new information is made available.

Quick reference guide for support available for small to medium businesses

[Boosting cash flow](#): Temporary cash flow support to small and medium businesses through two sets of cash flow boosts to support employers to retain employees. Support will be provided via tax-free cash flow boosts of between \$20,000 and \$100,000.

[Coronavirus SME Guarantee Scheme](#): The Australian Government will provide a guarantee of 50% to support short-term loans.

The Australian Government's [JobKeeper package](#) offers a subsidy of up to \$1500 per fortnight per employee to keep eligible businesses paying their staff. Employers and sole traders can register their interest in this program with the [Australian Tax Office](#).

The [JobKeeper Payment factsheet for employers](#) states the first payment will be received by employers from the ATO in the first week of May.

[Supporting apprentices and trainees](#): Eligible employers can apply for a wage subsidy of 50% of their apprentice's or trainee's wage paid during 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2020.

[Job support loans](#): Loans for Queensland businesses to retain employees and maintain their operations. Low interest loans of up to \$250,000 are available to assist with carry-on expenses such as employee wages, rent and rates and other related expenditure. Eligible business types include sole traders, partnerships, private and public companies and trusts.

[Payroll tax relief package](#): If you're an employer (or part of a group of employers) who pays \$6.5 million or less in Australian [taxable wages](#), you may be eligible for a refund of your payroll tax for two months, payroll tax holiday (i.e. no payroll tax to be paid) for three months or a deferral of payroll tax for the 2020 calendar year.

[Temporary relief for financially distressed businesses](#): The Australian Government is temporarily increasing the threshold at which creditors can issue a statutory demand.

[SME power bill relief](#): Small and medium businesses may be eligible for a \$500 rebate off their energy bill.

[Commercial tenancies](#): Relief measures for commercial tenants and landlords. A mandatory [Code of Conduct](#) has been developed by National Cabinet.

[Commercial and residential tenancies](#): Evictions will be put on hold over the next six months for commercial and residential tenancies in financial distress, who are unable to meet their commitments due to the impact of the COVID-19.

Any small business impacted by COVID-19 can now contact the [Rural Financial Counselling Service](#) in the following areas:

- [Southern Queensland](#): phone (07) 4622 5500
 - [North Queensland](#): phone (07) 4652 5669
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Latest health advice, current status and contact tracing alerts

Visit [Queensland Health](#) for the latest health information and instructions.

Join the [Australian Government WhatsApp group](#) for the latest news and advice.

If you develop a fever, a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath within 14 days of overseas travel, contact a doctor or call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Social distancing of 1.5 metres: [Social distancing](#) is a public health practice with the key aim to prevent sick people from coming into close contact with others to slow down the spread of a disease.

It also intends to reduce the chance of high-risk groups from becoming infected and to alleviate the burden on our health-care systems and workers.

When is self-isolation required? [What is involved?](#)

Mental wellbeing

[Queensland Health's website](#) has information on how to look after your mental wellbeing in a crisis.

Other contacts:

[Lifeline](#) (Mental health and wellbeing):
phone 13 11 14

[Beyond Blue](#) (Mental health and wellbeing): phone 1300 224 636

[Headspace](#) (Youth mental health and wellbeing): phone 1800 650 890

