

14 May 2020

Unite against **COVID-19** 

Aussie Red Crab adapts to market changes

Fancy a spanner crab spring roll or crab ravioli? Speciality crab products are heading to your local supermarket shelf as Aussie Red Crab, a crab meat processor at Mooloolaba adapts to market changes during COVID-19.

A COVID-19 Jobs Support Loan will allow Aussie Red Crab to move into new markets and maintain its business into the future after COVID-19 restrictions dramatically limited demand in its traditional restaurant and export markets in China, Japan, Vietnam, Singapore, New Zealand and Thailand.

Instead of closing the business, the loan has allowed general manager Jason Simpson and the team, the working capital funds to branch into supermarket-ready products like spanner crab spring rolls, ravioli, crab cakes, gyoza, dumplings and lasagne.

The move will mean the business will be able to continue supporting employees (including fishers), maintain operations into the future and cash-in on the spike in home cooking as the nation is encouraged to stay home. "I'll even look into spanner crab ice cream if I have to," Mr Simpson said.

[Read more](#) about Aussie Red Crab's story.

The loan scheme is administered by the [Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority](#).



Record-keeping templates to help agribusinesses and health management plans

[Record-keeping templates for workplace health management plans](#) have been developed to assist agribusinesses or commercial fishing and processing businesses to maintain records of activities during COVID-19.

If you are employing seasonal workers from outside Queensland, or any workers who are not staying in their permanent residence, you must have a [workplace health management plan](#) in place.

A workplace health management plan is in addition to your existing workplace health and safety procedures. The plan must:

- describe the health screening steps you will implement for employees—you are required to undertake daily checks of your employees to determine the presence/absence of COVID-19 symptoms
- describe the steps that you will implement to
 - manage and prevent the transmission of COVID-19 among your employees and the community
 - maintain health standards
 - respond appropriately should an employee become unwell
- be submitted to Queensland Health at covid.plans@health.qld.gov.au.

This framework allows agribusiness and commercial fishing to access the seasonal workforce necessary to maintain production, while also protecting regional communities and workers from the spread of COVID-19.

A seasonal worker is a person who travels to or within Queensland for work as it becomes available, often requiring them to move and stay in temporary accommodation. Seasonal workers can come from overseas to travel and work temporarily in Australia, be an interstate resident seeking work in Queensland, or a Queensland resident working away from home.

[Find out more information](#) about health management plans and requirements for agribusinesses and seafood processing operators.

Live coral trout and lobster fly to Hong Kong

A second Qantas freighter service from Brisbane to Hong Kong via Cairns commenced on Thursday 7 May. The flight was fully utilised and oversubscribed, with the main cargo being live coral trout and lobster.

There are now two freight flights leaving Cairns weekly, one on Thursday and the other one on Sunday. These two flights are providing a vital service to the live seafood export industry. The Thursday flight is being provided under the Australian Government [International Freight Assistance Mechanism \(IFAM\) program](#). The Sunday freighter service will fly at least until the end of June with Queensland Government support.

The Queensland Government is continuing to work on attracting additional space for this freight, which consists mostly of live fish and live crayfish (destination Hong Kong/China), with the remainder made up of aquarium fish and live corals (destination Europe/US) and a small amount of agricultural produce (destination Hong Kong/Singapore).

Webinar recording: Agricultural business continuity examples for COVID-19

The fourth business continuity planning (BCP) webinar was presented on Thursday 30 April 2020. This webinar had a strong focus on practical business continuity examples implemented across the agricultural sector and is available for viewing [here](#).

The fifth webinar in the series is scheduled for the end of May and will focus on the COVID-19 recovery phase; shifting away from BCP documentation and record keeping that tracks COVID-19 responses to a strategic planning approach identifying and leveraging emerging opportunities.

To register for future webinars and view previous webinars, please visit bdo.com.au/en-au/dafwebinarseries.

Queensland doubles funding for 12-month interest free business loans

An additional \$500 million in funding has been secured for the Queensland Government's program of 12-month interest free loans for COVID19-affected businesses, doubling the initial commitment.

The additional funding will continue to be administered through the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), but will be provided through the Queensland Investment Corporation, supporting thousands of Queensland businesses and tens of thousands of Queensland jobs.

Current applications will continue to be assessed up until the \$1 billion in funding is fully committed.

QRIDA will also provide free access to business advisory services for businesses that submitted a formal application but were unsuccessful in securing funding.

The scale and complexity of what QRIDA has been able to deliver in a short period of time has helped protect the jobs of tens of thousands of Queenslanders.

COVIDSafe—have you downloaded it?

The COVIDSafe app will help us slow the spread of COVID-19. Having confidence we can find and contain outbreaks quickly will mean governments can ease restrictions while still keeping Australians safe.

Downloading the app is something you can do to protect you, your family and friends and save the lives of other Australians. The more Australians connect to the COVIDSafe app, the quicker we can find the virus.



COVIDSafe is available on both iOS and Android. Visit covid-safe.gov.au for more information.

Free kegs on the way to outback pubs and clubs as restrictions ease

As pubs and clubs in outback Queensland prepare to open their doors again this weekend, more than [3000 litres of XXXX GOLD will make its way licensed venues](#).

A truck carrying 60 kegs will depart Brisbane to deliver a free keg to pubs and clubs re-opening this weekend in Roma, Barcaldine, Ilfracombe, Longreach, Dulacca, Yuleba, Wallumbilla, Mungallala, Blackall.

As parts of outback Queensland have seen no cases of COVID-19, outback pubs and clubs will be able to reopen for dining on 15 May. They will be allowed 20 patrons at a time, observing social distancing.

The Queensland Government hopes that by carefully relaxing some of the restrictions in these regions, we can start to rebuild our regional economies and give everyone the morale boost they really need right now.

Quick reference guide for support available for small to medium businesses

[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

[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](#).

[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.

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





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