



Shire of  
**Nannup**  
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# Agenda

Special Council Meeting to be held  
on Thursday 9 April 2020  
Commencing at 5.30 pm

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# Agenda

1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**
2. **RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**
3. **APOLOGIES**
4. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**  
(Previously Approved)
5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
6. **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

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7.	<b>CLOSURE OF MEETING</b>	

AGENDA NUMBER:	6.1
SUBJECT:	COVID19 Community Relief Package
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	Shire of Nannup
NAME OF APPLICANT:	Shire of Nannup
FILE REFERENCE:	FNC 3
AUTHOR:	Chief Executive Officer – David Taylor
REPORTING OFFICER:	Chief Executive Officer – David Taylor
DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:	None
DATE OF REPORT	7 April 2020
ATTACHMENT	6.1.1 - COVID-19 Community Relief Package Draft

**BACKGROUND:**

The Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has escalated worldwide over the past 4 weeks. There have been several necessary restrictions placed on the Western Australian population, community groups and businesses that are having significant economic and social impacts. Therefore, a Community Relief Package has been prepared for Council’s consideration.

**COMMENT:**

This pandemic is causing unprecedented financial uncertainty on Government, business, not-for-profit organisations and the wider community.

The Shire of Nannup has put in place many measures to deal with and support our community and businesses as much as possible with current resources available and where possible to protect staff and community from the spread of COVID-19.

The general function of local government is to provide for the good government of person in its district. Critically during an emergency such as the currently occurring, the Council need to balance its financial sustainability against the needs and wants of individuals, community groups and businesses.

To date the Shire has received requests for;

- rates concession relating to when they can pay the next instalment.
- Community groups have requested concession on the rent payable on Council properties.

Further to this, WALGA at its Special State Council Meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020 resolved the following request of each local government.

*Extract from the Minutes;*

*“2. Requests each Local Government give consideration to the following suite of actions, for Local Governments with the capacity to do so, to provide a coordinated and consistent response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- a. Consider not increasing rates for the 2020-21 financial year.*
- b. Adoption of the WALGA template rates hardship policy by Local Governments that do not currently have a policy.*
- c. Consider rate relief options to support small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- d. Review fees and charges considering whether fees can be reduced, waived or deferred during the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- e. Bring forward capital works and infrastructure spending with aggressive application of reserves and borrowing.*
- f. Prioritise Local Government spending with businesses and contractors located within the Local Government.*
- g. Implement business friendly payment terms to support business cash flow.*
- h. Consider supporting Community sporting and cultural groups by either establishing grant programs or waiving fees and charges.*
- i. Redeploy staff affected by facility closures to tasks that support the community.”*

The Community Relief Package prepared for Council consideration takes into consideration the above request of the Local Government sector.

The summary of principles available under the Relief Package are;

#### Rates, Fees and Charges

- 0% (zero) rate increase for the 2020/21 financial year.
- Waiving of interest accrued on any rates outstanding from 1 April 2020 until 30 June 2020.
- Flexible payment plans for those in vulnerable situations or experiencing financial hardship.
- Waiving of all non-regulatory Shire fees and charges from 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020, excluding waste related fees and charges.
- 0% fees and charges increase on all discretionary fees and charges in the 2020/21 financial year, excluding waste related fees and charges.

#### Community

- Waiving rent for community groups using Council owned facilities from 30 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.
- Social Media Groups that connect neighbours and community members to assist and support each other.
- Through technology enable people to access and share information, resources and connect with other people and services.
- Provision of supplies where applicable.

- Enhancing people's access to critical information and resources through social media.

#### Business

- Linking businesses to support groups to help them through the pandemic.
- Coordinate the business listing on behalf of businesses who are providing a service in response to the pandemic.

#### Review of Relief Package

Given the uncertainty of how long this pandemic will last and more so the time it takes to recover; it is recommended that these be reviewed at 30 June 2020.

The WALGA Hardship policy will be reviewed by staff and tabled for Councils consideration in the April Ordinary Meeting of Council.

### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:**

*Local Government Act 1995*

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Nil

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There have already been impacts on the current budget due to facilities not being available for hire.

#### Estimated Value of Community Care package (based on above)

\$88,750	– Lost Revenue - Based on 5% rates increase @ \$17,750 per 1%.
\$6,000	– Lost Revenue - Interest waiver of Rates and Charges.
\$10,000	– Lost Revenue – waived rental charges for Community groups.
\$10,000	– Lost Revenue – waived fees and charges (these will be lost anyway due to facility and public events closures).
\$5,000	– Additional Expense – Provision of sanitation supplies.
\$5,000	– Additional Expense – additional expenditure budget for initiatives to support businesses.

#### **Total Estimated Value of Community Care Package \$125,000 (rates @ 5% being \$89,000)**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant costs to the State and Federal Government's and it is unsure on their intentions of ongoing financial assistance that is received annually. It is anticipated that these Government budgets will be delayed as a result.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:**

Strategic Community Plan

Our Community Leadership

To listen and partner with our community leaders and all our diverse groups.

Our Council Leadership

To do what is right and fair for the people.

Long Term Financial Plan implications relating to no rate increase.

Corporate Business Plan implications relating to no rate increase.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt the principles within the COVID-19 Community Relief Package as attached.

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS:**

Simple Majority.



## Attachments

Item	Attach	Title
6.1	1	COVID-19 Community Relief Package Draft

# Attachment 6.1.1

## COVID-19 Community Relief Package

The Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic has escalated to a worldwide level over the past month and has resulted in considerable and serious economic and social impacts on the Nannup community.

To date, Shire staff have taken significant steps to remodel its service delivery to avoid face to face contact to protect staff and community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Nannup community in several ways with businesses having to close their doors or operate under restricted measures, job losses, reduced community interaction and many more.

### **Options available through the Relief Package;**

#### Rates, Fees and Charges

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- Flexible payment plans for those in vulnerable situations or experiencing financial hardship.
- Waiving of all non-regulatory Shire fees and charges from 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020, excluding waste related fees and charges.
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#### Business

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- Coordinate the business listing on behalf of businesses who are providing a service in response to the pandemic.

#### Review of Relief Package

Given the uncertainty of how long this pandemic will last and more so the time it takes to recover, it is recommended that these be reviewed at 30 June 2020.

Estimated Value of Community Care package (based on above)

\$88,750	– Lost Revenue - Based on 5% lost rates increase @ \$17,750 per 1%.
\$6,000	– Lost Revenue - Interest waiver of Rates and Charges.
\$10,000	– Lost Revenue – waived rental charges for Community base groups.
\$10,000	– Lost Revenue – waived fees and charges (these will be lost anyway due to facility and public events closures).
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\$5,000	– Additional Expense – additional expenditure budget for initiatives to support businesses.

**Total Estimated Value of Community Care Package      \$125,000 (rates @ 5% being \$89,000)**