



MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2020

Council's 2nd round of community support measures for COVID-19

At a special meeting of the Alice Springs Town Council held on Monday 4 May 2020, it was agreed that a second round of COVID19 exceptional support measures be put in place for the Alice Springs community.

CEO Robert Jennings said *"These next few months are going to be challenging times for our community, while it is a welcome relief to be returning to greater business operations, there are current and future flow-on impacts to business and ratepayers as a result of these closures. Elected Members recognise this and have been working on a package of measures that is designed to provide relief now and going forward."*

The second round of community support measures to be implemented:

- 5.1 That Council identify a \$5M COVID-19 reserve to provide for the future economic, social and well-being support of the community and the organisation with the following aims and scope:**
- 1. Details of the appropriate package will be considered over the coming weeks as part of the Council 2020/21 budget deliberations as well as ongoing analysis of the needs of our community and other government support measure packages, with a proposed announcement of all confirmed measures in June or July 2020.**
 - 2. At a high level, the break-down of the \$5M COVID-19 Reserve will be:**
 - A. Up to \$1.0M to provide an appropriate non-commercial COVID-19 hardship package.**
 - B. \$2.2M for CBD revitalisation project, subject to a clear breakdown of the tendered costs totaling \$20M, the NT Government commencing all aspects of the CBD revitalisation project on site and confirmed co-funding of \$20M for shade structures, lighting, activation zones and the Kwatja Play and community park.**
 - C. As determined at the 30 March 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council - \$1M for operational requirements as required and as determined by the CEO to allow for the safe, effective and legislative function of the organisation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.**
 - D. As approved at the 27 April 2020 Ordinary Meeting of Council –acceptance of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development commercial hardship rate support.**
 - E. Any other measures as determined by Elected Members.**
 - 3. The COVID reserve will be based on the needs of the community and may not be required to be expended in its entirety based on a balanced approach to the current and long-term priorities.**
 - 4. The above allows a \$800k contingency should the DLGHCD support package be insufficient to meet the demand**

Further to the above, more motions were put forward and carried at the meeting which will further assist the community towards recovery.

Further motions to be implemented:

In response to the COVID–19 crisis, Council set a budget for 2020/2021 that provides a 0% rate freeze on residential property based on the budget as set during 2019/2020

Reduce the current penalty interest on late rates from 19% down to 9% on all rate payers effective from the 30th of June 2020

Note: These special measures have been put in place as a result of COVID-19. All information is correct as at 9am, Wednesday 6 May, 2020.

Ends

For further information contact:

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