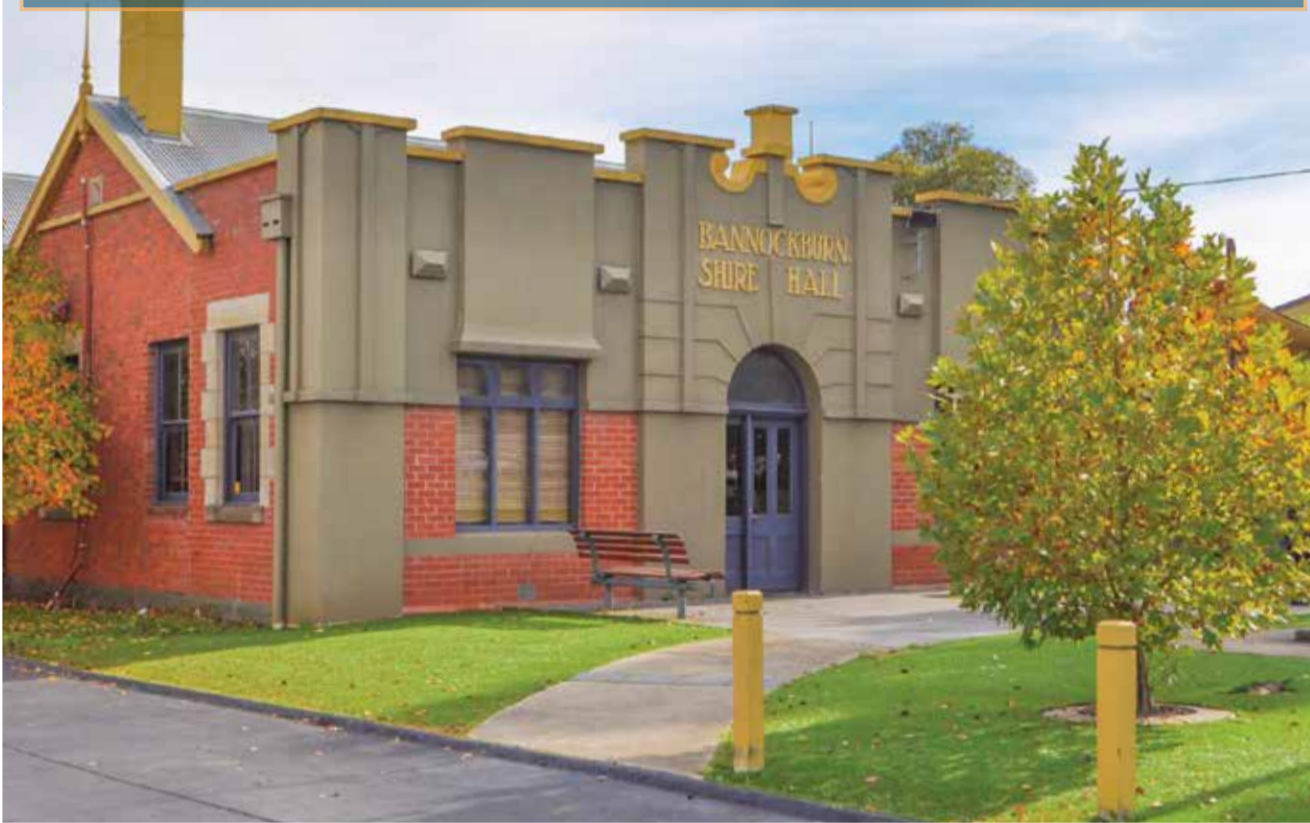


COVID-19: COUNCIL SUPPORT



Golden Plains Shire Council has confirmed a package of financial relief options for local residents and businesses to support the Golden Plains community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With State and Federal Governments taking the lead on major financial measures including the new Jobkeeper and increased Jobseeker programs to keep regular income coming in to households, Council has reviewed a variety of measures to alleviate the pressure of upcoming payments while still maintaining its delivery of important community services and its responsibilities as a significant local employer.

Golden Plains Shire Council will deliver the following COVID-19 related relief measures:

Ratepayers and residents experiencing financial hardship

- Introduction of a Special COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for Golden Plains Shire Council ratepayers
- Suspension of all current debt recovery action for unpaid 2019/20 rates through to 30 September 2020
- Waive interest on overdue 2019/20 rates through to 30 September 2020
- Waive penalties for late payment on pet registration fees through to 30 September 2020
- New payment plans available for animal registration renewals

Business support

- Introduction of a Special COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy for local businesses
- Commitment to pay invoices from all local businesses within 14 days to support cash flow
- Extension of time applications for business-related septic tank and planning permits expiring before 30 September 2020 can be lodged at no cost

- Refund of all permit fees for events and activities that have been cancelled or closed as directed by Government
- New allowance for commercial businesses to reduce their waste collection arrangements if necessary
- Free mentoring support for small businesses experiencing hardship
- Free promotion of local businesses on Council's website and social media with Be Kind to Business campaign: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business/be-kind-business
- Dedicated COVID-19 business support page on Council's website with links to Federal and State Government programs: goldenplains.vic.gov.au/business/covid-19-business-support
- Access to dedicated business support officer within Council for local businesses to receive individual assistance

Capital works

- Council will continue budgeted capital works as scheduled to maximise local business and employment opportunities

Council is working to implement its financial relief options as soon as possible. If residents have any enquiries or require any further information, call Council's Customer Service team at 5220 7111.

The COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy is also available to view on Council's website: goldenplains.vic.gov.au.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Golden Plains Shire Council has implemented a number of changes to its operations to reduce the risks to residents, staff and volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council's Bannockburn, Linton and Smythesdale Customer Service Centres are closed for face-to-face interactions. Customers are still able to contact the Customer Service team by phone at 5220 7111, email at enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au, or online at goldenplains.vic.gov.au/forms/portal.

The Golden Plains Farmers' Market scheduled on Saturday 2 May has been cancelled, in line with the social distancing restrictions of the Australian and Victorian Governments.

To keep yourself and the community safe, Council encourages all Golden Plains Shire residents to follow the Victorian Government's advice to stay home, and only leave the house for: food and essential supplies; medical, care or compassionate needs; exercise in compliance with gathering restrictions; and work or study. For up-to-date government advice and restrictions, visit dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

This information is current as of 14 April 2020. For up-to-date information on the status of Council's services, operations and events, visit goldenplains.vic.gov.au/coronavirus, or follow Council on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

BRIDGE CLOSURE



While many aspects of life have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council is completing its infrastructure building program, approved in its 2019/2020 Council Budget, with works underway on the redevelopment of Barwon Park Road Bridge over the Warrambine Creek in Inverleigh.

To enable these works, Barwon Park Road Bridge is now closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic until Wednesday 24 June, 2020.