

Council's community support measures for COVID-19

At a special meeting of the Alice Springs Town Council held last night, it was unanimously agreed that exceptional support measures be put in place for our local economy and the Alice Springs community.

"In these uncertain times, it's important that the community is aware of what Council has been actively working on to be able to make this announcement today. Council Officers have been assisting in the coordinated response effort, whilst also proactively developing potential recovery measures for our community." Mayor Ryan

The community support measures to be implemented:

1. **That the local weighting criteria for Council procurement be increased from current 10% to 30% weighting in Council's *Procurement of Good and Services Quotations and Tenders Policy* until 30 June 2020.**
2. **From 27 March 2020, the charging of interest on outstanding rates balances is suspended until 30 June 2020.**
3. **The rates payment due dates for the last quarterly payment will be extended from 3 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.**
4. **Fees and charges – as from 27 March 2020:**
 - a. **Fees associated with the Civic Centre public toilet shower usage will be waived until June 2020.**
 - b. **All Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre (ASALC) memberships and 10 visit passes are suspended, to resume upon reopening.**
 - c. **Library late fees waived until the Library is reopened.**
 - d. **The Sports Facility Advisory Committee participation levy will be waived until 30 June 2020.**
5. **Council will meet to consider further measures as part of its 2020/21 financial year budget deliberations.**

CEO Robert Jennings said *"Elected Members have also expressed deep concern for Alice Springs and are working on a raft of initiatives for the next level of response, so as to be ready to support our community when it will need it most."*

This resolution further supports the work that Council is already doing in working with the NT Government to action the priorities of the Department of Health and Emergency Operations Centre. To this extent, the following actions have already been undertaken:

- Ensuring the ongoing provision of Council's essential services, such as waste and roads
- Numerous actions to ensure the safety of the public and Council staff
- Cancellation of Council events and activities in alignment with its facilities and events management processes
- Closure of the Alice Springs Aquatic and Leisure Centre facility on Monday 23 March 2020
- Closure of the Public Library on Tuesday 24 March 2020
- Closure of the Civic Centre (to the public) Friday 27 March 2020
- Restriction on funerals, in accordance with the Prime Minister's directives
- Moving all public meetings to Zoom, where possible

Note: These special measures have been put in place as a result of COVID-19. All information is correct as at 11am, Friday 27 March, 2020.

Ends

For further information contact:

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