

Brighton Council  
1 Tivoli Road  
Old Beach TAS 7017  
Ph: 6268 7000  
Email: [admin@brighton.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@brighton.tas.gov.au)

## **BRIGHTON COUNCIL COVID 19 UPDATE – 30 March 2020**

Brighton Council has announced a broad range of measures in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Council continues to operate strictly in accordance with restrictions and guidelines from government health officials in order to ensure we reduce the risk for the community and our staff. We have ensured that all information shared in relation to COVID-19 has been sourced directly from the Tasmanian Government Department of Health or Australian Department of Health.

Please read on for further information about the changes to Council services as a result. We will continue to update this as the situation unfolds. Given the nature of COVID-19 we do not know how long closures will last or what other services will be affected in the future. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for further updates.

## **SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **Closure of Brighton Council Offices to General Public**

To protect our staff and the community from the potential spread of COVID-19, Brighton Council Offices will be CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC from 4.45 pm Tuesday, 24 March 2020.

Although our doors will be closed Council will continue to provide all services. Staff are still working and available to serve you by phone and e-mail.

Whilst the doors are closed, you can contact us via one of these alternative methods:

- Email – [admin@brighton.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@brighton.tas.gov.au)
- Phone – 6268 7000
- Facebook – search for Brighton Council Tasmania
- Website – Check out our website for all Council information including forms and links to assist you to carry out your business <https://www.brighton.tas.gov.au/>

If this presents a problem for you please contact us via telephone or email in the first instance to make alternative arrangements.

We appreciate your support with this matter and you can rest assured we will continue working behind the scenes to deliver all our core services to the community.

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### **Public Playgrounds and Skate Parks**

Council has temporarily closed public playgrounds and skate parks within the municipal area until further notice due to COVID-19. This decision was made following the Prime Minister's announcement on 24 March on the closure of 'indoor and outdoor play centres'. The playgrounds and skate parks will be signed advising of these closures. We ask for parental assistance in ensuring these closures are adhered to. The health and safety of the community is our priority.

### **Community centres/halls/meeting rooms**

All hiring of community centres, meeting rooms and halls has been suspended until further notice. For enquiries from existing hirers call 6268 7035 or email [cathy.harper@brighton.tas.gov.au](mailto:cathy.harper@brighton.tas.gov.au)

### **Immunisations**

Council's monthly immunisation sessions at the Brighton Civic Centre in Bridgewater will continue to operate with no change to dates and times at this stage.

### **ANZAC Day**

ANZAC Day celebrations have been cancelled.

### **Waste Transfer Station**

The Bridgewater Waste Transfer Station at 131 Cove Hill Road will continue to operate during normal trading hours.

Fri – Mon from 8.30am to 4.30pm

Tues – Thurs – CLOSED

Good Friday – CLOSED

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## **ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Ordinary Council Meetings are currently on hold due to the latest restrictions limiting gatherings to two people as of midnight tonight (30 March 2020).

State Government is currently looking at the legislation to allow Council meetings to be conducted remotely. The Premier should be providing notice shortly that allows Ordinary Council Meetings to legally be conducted remotely. We will keep the community informed on this.

All Council committee meetings have been put on hold until further notice. Any matters that would have normally been dealt with in committee, will be taken to Ordinary Council Meetings.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES**

Council has commenced implementing financial support measures for residents and ratepayers.

To date these immediate measures have included the following:

- Debt collection suspended until June 30, 2020.
- More flexible arrangements can be requested for payment of rates until June 30, 2020
- More flexible arrangements can be requested by debtors until June 30, 2020
- Council will implement a system of immediate payment of all invoices received from small or local businesses.
- Accumulation of interest on outstanding debts will be ceased until June 30, 2020.

An economic support package will be formally considered at the next Ordinary Council Meeting. The package will take into consideration what support is currently available from the State and Federal Governments.

As part of this economic support package, Council will **consider** the following measures:

1. Principle of no penalties, charges, interest or debt collection for late rate payments and extended payment periods until June 30, 2020.
2. Rent relief on council owned buildings where tenants are experiencing financial hardship until 30 June 2020.
3. A common approach to hardship/assistance policies to be developed by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) in consultation with councils.
4. Community grants to be refocused as appropriate to support local businesses and not-for-profit recovery or conversion to digital environment or circular economy until June 30, 2021. And council to settle accounts within 14 days or shorter regardless of trade terms.
5. A 0% rate increase for 20/21 but fees and charges may be increased up to CPI.

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## **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**

If you are feeling anxious, stressed, concerned or overwhelmed there are people to talk to from the following support services:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24 hours, 7 days)
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 (24 hours, 7 days)
- MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 (24 hours, 7 days)
- Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 (24 hours, 7 days)
- Headspace for young people: 1800 650 890

## **REMAIN VIGILANT**

It is extremely important for the community to take notice of the advice from the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Government Department of Health, particularly in relation to hygiene measures and social distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19.

For information on this please see:

Australian Government Department of Health website - [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

Tasmanian Government Department of Health website - [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au)